

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PROTECTION FROM PERSONAL INTRUSION ACT

HON. SONNY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. BONO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Protection from Personal Intrusion Act, a measure that is badly needed and long overdue. Recent tragic events have punctuated the danger and bring this problem near to all of us from the forefront of the world's attention. I must, however, assure you that this is a long-standing problem suffered by many of the wonderful people I have known and admired. In truth, this is a victims' rights bill. Allowing someone to suffer at your hand is an outrageous offense. Allowing someone to be violated and not have legal rights or recourse available is a failing on our behalf.

Briefly, I wish to explain the background for this legislation. Congress has a duty to balance a variety of interests, including the first amendment, the public's right-to-know, and the public safety and order. The first amendment is a cherished concept that comes from the genius of our Founding Fathers. Yet it is without doubt that the activities of the bounty-hunting paparazzi go beyond the robust public discourse envisioned by the Founders. No legitimate media need to encourage or utilize these abusive practices that often rise to stalking, harassment, assault and other violent conduct.

In section 1, the short title is listed. In section 2, a new Federal criminal offense prohibiting certain violent conduct is defined by adding to chapter 89 of title 18 United States Code a new section, sec. 1822. In my view, there is a definite need for the Federal Government's role in this area. First, it is important to ensure this protection is uniformly guaranteed throughout the Nation. The States are also free to address this issue concurrently as they deem fit. In addition, I urge the States to continue strenuously enforcing their own laws in this area. Further, I hope that they complement this law in new ways to preserve the public order and safety. I have tried to word this legislation carefully enough to include the situations we can expect and yet broadly enough to be flexible to consider the range of possible behavior the victims may encounter. Under the bill, criminal liability for this type of heinous behavior against any member of the public includes a jail sentence of up to 20 years and a fine depending on the nature of offense.

Further, the bill creates a new corresponding civil cause of action and defines the jurisdiction for such cases of the victims of this intolerable and intrusive behavior against the shameless perpetrators. This civil liability complements the criminal offense section.

Next, three last substantive measures are provided. I am aware that there are legitimate first amendment concerns that such liability may chill the legitimate media. Here, the bill

makes it clear that nothing in this act may be construed to make the sale, transmission, publication, broadcast or use of such recordings that are obtained in an otherwise lawful manner subject to criminal charge or civil liability. Likewise, under my bill, liability is limited to the actual perpetrators who are physically present and commit the offense described but does not extend to the editors, publishers or other related organizations. Of course, such organizations may be liable under the operation of other legal mechanisms. In addition, there is a law enforcement exemption that applies to legitimate law enforcement activities. While certainly the police are not acting as freelance paparazzi, we must make certain that as a practical matter they are not subject to groundless suits while protecting our public safety.

In designing this legislation, I am addressing an intrusive type of conduct that transcends decency and respect. It has no role in a civilized society or as part of legitimate news gathering. While I focus on activity that is wholly outside the protection of the first amendment, I took care to balance the important values behind the freedom of the press and individual safety. There is a very specific problem at hand, and this bill is drafted to be its narrowly-tailored solution. It is my hope that all of my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation, so we can protect our public safety and prevent the further victimization of the innocent.

HONORING THOMAS E. WALDROP

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me my colleagues, Mr. MORAN and Mr. WOLF, and me great pleasure to rise today and pay tribute to Mr. Thomas E. Waldrop, an outstanding member of the Northern Virginia Community. Tom is this year's founders award winner from the Northern Virginia Community Foundation. The founders award is given annually to an individual who has demonstrated civic and humanitarian responsibility, and personal participation and leadership in northern Virginia community civic bodies. In addition, the award is presented to an individual who is contributing to improve the quality of life in northern Virginia through leadership in one or more of the following five areas: the Arts, Education, Health, Youth and Civic Improvement.

Tom is an individual who has made a very strong positive impact on northern Virginia as well as the entire State of Virginia. He is a Virginia native who was born in Montpelier, VA, on April 8, 1937. He received his higher edu-

cation from Virginia schools. Tom received a bachelor's degree in economics from Randolph-Macon College and a master's degree in business from Virginia Commonwealth University. Tom also served his country, and he served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1958 to 1960.

Tom is currently the president and chief executive officer for Media General Cable which is headquartered in northern Virginia. He has served in that position since 1984. Since that time, Tom has directed the development of one of the Nation's largest and most sophisticated cable television systems. Tom's career with Media General Corp. began in 1967 when he started with Richmond Newspapers. He was quickly promoted and appointed the operations manager of Media General Financial Services at the beginning of 1968. Tom went on to serve as their vice president and as assistant general manager. After his success with the financial services division, Tom moved to Media General's Piedmont Publishing Co. where he worked as their business manager, and eventually became the general manager. He left Piedmont when he moved to Media General Cable in northern Virginia.

Tom has shown boundless energy and has made it a priority to work in his community to improve the quality of life for all of us. He works with a wide range of organizations that have made northern Virginia the dynamic, vibrant area it is. Northern Virginia's diverse community has grown dramatically since the early eighties. It has been successful in maintaining a community atmosphere with the work of people like Tom.

Tom works closely with both northern Virginia arts and business communities. He is in his fourth term as chairman of the board of directors of the Arts Council of Fairfax County. He also remains on the board of directors for the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, the Fairfax County Public School's Business Advisory, the Fairfax Symphony, the Northern Virginia Community College Educational Fund, the Northern Virginia Technology Council, the Tower Club, and the Wolf Trap Foundation. In addition to all of these associations, Tom has previously served as the director of the American Heart Association's Fairfax board and has chaired the development committee for "Spotlight on the Arts" in the city of Fairfax. He continues to demonstrate his willingness to lead the Northern Virginia community in a wide range of areas.

Tom is also associated with a number of other activities where he volunteers his time and services to further enhance our community. He continues to work with the Northern Virginia Business Roundtable, the Virginia Advisory Committee, and the Corporate Advisory Committee for the Women's Center of Northern Virginia. Tom also works with national organizations to improve the quality of our cable television nationwide including serving on the board of directors for the National Cable Television Association and C-SPAN [the Cable Satellite Public Affairs Network].

Mr. Speaker, we know our colleagues join us in honoring and thanking Tom Waldrop for

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

his achievements in working to improve northern Virginia for all of its residents. We appreciate all of his hard work in making northern Virginia one of the finest places to live and work. For those of us that know of Tom's commitment to northern Virginia, it is no surprise that the Northern Virginia Community Foundation has decided to award him their prestigious founder's award at a gala banquet on October 24, 1997. It is a well deserved award.

TRIBUTE TO "CONCERN FOR
INDEPENDENT LIVING"

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding organization that for 25 years has provided housing and career opportunities that have enabled Long Islanders who are recovering from psychiatric disabilities to realize their full potential as productive, happy members of the community.

Founded in 1972, Concern for Independent Living provides an empowering and supportive environment for our Long Island neighbors who are working to achieve a level of independence in the community. As the New York State psychiatric system closes its large hospitals and evolves towards a community-based approach, groups like Concern for Independent Living are critical components in the patient care effort for the 21st century.

Started as a patient advocacy group known as the Concerned Parents and Friends of Central Islip State Hospital, Concern now provides an array of housing opportunities that are based on the consumer empowerment model, whereby residents participate in all levels of management and comprise the majority of the home's board of directors.

To help clients assimilate into the community, Concern offers housing options that range from highly supervised community residences to independent living in apartments and single-family homes throughout Suffolk County. Family, staff, and referral services work together to place clients in the environment that best meets their rehabilitative needs.

Residents of Concern's housing program are also offered vocational opportunities that provides them with real-life training in the business world. Starting with its first job training initiative, a thrift shop program in Central Islip, Concern opened a client-run home, lawn, and garden maintenance business in April 1993. Also placing qualified clients at other, privately operated businesses, Concern offers its residents the invaluable experience of meeting work responsibilities and the satisfaction of knowing that they are a valued, contributing member of the Long Island community.

Mr. Speaker, the programs and opportunities provided by Concern for Independent Living are true models for government-supported, privately operated nonprofit endeavors. They demonstrate that public investment in our communities, when administered in a thoughtful, consumer-focused approach, can make a truly positive impact in the lives of America's citizens. That is why I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting Concern for Independent Living on

its 25th anniversary celebration. We are fortunate to have them in Suffolk County.

GE WATERFORD, NEW YORK FACILITY CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, it's not often that I can give my wholehearted congratulations to a corporation that, after taking a chance on a new technology, has not only prospered but has become a fixture in our local landscape. I couldn't be speaking of any business other than GE Silicones.

Fifty years ago, General Electric scientists made a breakthrough discovery. They found a way to create a group of products that were so versatile and could withstand such high degrees of heat that they were unlike any other seen before. Realizing the immediate potential for these compounds, GE began construction on a new manufacturing facility designed to develop new applications for silicones. The company chose to locate in a small, rural town called Waterford, accessible by both the Hudson River and the D&H Railroad.

Today, that company has grown into a global business that is 3,000 employees strong and has manufacturing and sales facilities throughout the world. A \$1 billion a year enterprise, GE makes more than 2,000 different silicone products which are used in a variety of industries, including electronics, automobiles, personal and health care, and textiles. It's almost unbelievable that one group of products can be used in so many different ways.

And GE Silicones serves as a vital part of the capital region's economy. Employing 1,500 people locally, the company is a significant contributor to the fiscal strength and stability of our area.

But even as the company continues to expand, GE Silicones has not forgotten the community that serves as its base of operations. I couldn't be more pleased to hear of the company's donations to the Village Fire Department and public library in honor of its 50th anniversary celebration. This is just one more example of the company's commitment to be a responsible and caring neighbor.

On this 50th anniversary, and with much appreciation I congratulate GE Silicones and thank General Electric for its continued investment to our community.

HENRY FORD COMMUNITY
COLLEGE 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn, MI is celebrating its 60th anniversary. To mark its 60th jubilee, I would like to publicly acknowledge this respected institution's tremendous history of excellence and unparalleled contribution to our community.

Since 1938 Henry Ford Community College [HFCC] has served as a gateway to higher

education for thousands of residents of southeastern Michigan. This institution was established to provide an affordable, high quality college education for students in Dearborn, MI and its surrounding communities.

HFCC has clearly succeeded in meeting these original goals. The college enrolls approximately 20,000 students per year, and has grown to become the fifth largest community college and the tenth largest college in the State of Michigan. I am proud to say that HFCC graduates more than 1,000 students per year. A recent survey showed that 98 percent of HFCC graduates are working in Michigan.

In accordance with the rapidly approaching 21st century, Henry Ford Community College has dedicated itself to keeping pace by continuously renovating and modernizing its facilities and curricula. The completion of the new technology building has provided HFCC with one of the most modern community college manufacturing technology and apprentice training facilities in the Nation. These physical improvements and HFCC's qualified, dedicated faculty provide HFCC students with the training and skills that are needed by today's workers and employers in Michigan and across the Nation.

The success of HFCC's students, faculty, and administration can be directly attributed to their dedication to the legacy of Henry Ford—a legacy of hard work, world-class education, and an eye to the future. Henry Ford Community College has been successful as a leader in education and training, and I believe the school and the individuals who make up its community deserve to be commended.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE GLOBAL
PACKAGE LINE IMPORTANT TO
AMERICAN MAILERS

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, soon my colleagues and I on the House Rules Committee will consider a rule for H.R. 2378, the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations bill for fiscal 1998. At that time, the committee will determine whether to grant a waiver for a provision in the bill to limit the U.S. Postal Service from expanding its Global Package Line Service.

Global package Link is a new approach using modern technology to ship packages from large mailers to overseas destinations. Today, companies like J.C. Penny, Land's End, L.L. Bean, and Neiman Marcus Direct can use this service to reach easily and economically consumer markets in Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Germany, Japan, and the United Kingdom. Soon service will be extended to France, Mexico and Singapore.

The U.S. Postal Service was created to provide a business approach to the business of moving the mail. Since that time, the Postal Service has lived up to its charge by introducing new products and services to keep pace with the ever changing market. Global Package Link is the latest innovative mailing option aimed at international business customers.

The Postal Service makes available mail service nationally and internationally to every

American consumer and business. Global Package Link is an important part of the service provided to American businesses. Freezing the program will surely hurt American businesses trying to penetrate foreign markets. It will hurt all users of the Postal Service by limiting the ability to upgrade its services.

Under the Rules of the House, the provision freezing the Global Package Link Service may not be considered on the House floor as part of the Treasury-Postal Service Appropriations bill. While it is within the authority of the Rules Committee to grant a waiver to this rule, the merits of this provision are insufficient for such special treatment. Moreover, the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight oppose a waiver for this provision.

Mr. Speaker, the House should not approve legislation to interfere with the Postal Service's efforts to provide innovative, high quality service to American mail users. Certainly, we should not bend our own rules to make in order legislation which would do just that.

ADDRESSING GULF WAR ILLNESS

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman PORTER, Congressman BILL YOUNG, ranking member DAVE OBEY, and their staffs at the Appropriations Committee for all of the help that they have provided me in attempting to address one of the most important issues facing American veterans, and one of the great medical dilemmas facing our entire country. And that is that over 70,000 Persian Gulf veterans, including hundreds in my own State of Vermont, continue to suffer from gulf war illness, and that 6 years after that war's completion, there is still no understanding of the cause of that illness or an effective treatment.

As you know CHRIS SHAYS, the chairman of the Human Resources Subcommittee has held 10 hearings on gulf war illness since March 1996. As a member of that committee, I cannot begin to express to you the frustration that many of us feel regarding the ineptitude of the Department of Defense and the Veterans Administration in responding adequately and effectively to the needs of those veterans who continue to hurt.

Pure and simple, the bottom line is that 6 years after the end of the Persian Gulf war, the Department of Defense and the Veterans Administration still have not developed an understanding of the cause of gulf war illnesses or an effective treatment protocol. In fact, their record has been so inadequate that last week the Presidential Advisory Committee on Persian Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses indicated that it will be recommending to the President that an independent agency, outside of the Pentagon, take on responsibility for investigating the health effects of low level chemical and biological weapons exposures. According to Arthur L. Caplan, a bioethics professor at the University of Pennsylvania and a member of the panel, "the Pentagon is not credible to continue inquiries that veterans and the public do not find persuasive." And the New York Times writes, "a special White House panel

said today, that the Pentagon had lost so much credibility in its investigation of the release of Iraqi chemical weapons in the 1991 Persian Gulf War that oversight of the investigation must be taken away from the Defense Department permanently."

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to inform my colleagues that there is language in the Labor-HHS Appropriations Committee report which funds an independent scientific research program into how chemical exposures in the Persian Gulf relate to the illnesses suffered by as many as 70,000 of our veterans. This research program is to be implemented through the Secretary of Health, with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences as the lead agency. The committee has agreed to appropriate \$1.1 million for fiscal year 1998 for this important research, and has committed to fund this research program at a level of \$7 million over a 5-year period. What is important here is that for the first time, a governmental entity outside the Pentagon or the Veterans Administration will be looking at the role that chemicals may have played in gulf war illness—and that is a major breakthrough.

This report language is strongly supported by the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the National Gulf War Resource Center. Veterans and Americans all over this country are less than impressed, to say the least, about the role of the DOD and the VA in this entire process.

Mr. Speaker, the military theater in the Persian Gulf was a chemical cesspool. Our troops were exposed to chemical warfare agents, leaded petroleum, widespread use of pesticides, depleted uranium, and burning oil wells. In addition, they were given a myriad of pharmaceuticals as vaccines. Further, and perhaps most importantly, as a result of waiver from the FDA, hundreds of thousands of troops were given pyridostigmine bromide. Pyridostigmine bromide, which was being used as an antinerve gas agent, had never been used in this capacity before. Under an agreement between the DOD and the FDA in regards to this waiver, the DOD was required to collect data on any use of pyridostigmine bromide. However, the DOD failed to keep this data and in many cases, there are no records to indicate who even took this investigational drug, how much they took, and under what conditions they took it.

For 5 years, the Pentagon denied that our soldiers had been exposed to any chemical warfare agents. Finally, after being forced to admit that there were exposures, they suggested that the exposures were limited. The DOD's first estimates were 400 troops exposed, then 20,000 troops. In July of this year, the DOD and CIA gave us their best estimate—that as many as 98,910 American troops could have been exposed to chemical warfare agents due to destruction of "the Pit" in Khamisyah, an Iraqi munitions facility. Mr. Chairman, I would not be surprised if this estimate is revised upward in the not too distant future, as more information is gathered regarding other incidents of chemical warfare exposure.

Mr. Speaker, an increasing number of scientists now believe that the synergistic effect of chemical exposures, plus the investigational vaccine pyridostigmine bromide, may well be a major cause of the health problems affecting our soldiers.

Dr. Robert W. Haley of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center con-

cludes that the gulf war syndromes are caused by low-level chemical nerve agents combined with other chemicals, including pyridostigmine bromide. Doctors Mohammed Abou-Donia and Tom Kurt, of Duke University Medical Center, in studies using hens, found that a combination of two pesticides used in the gulf war, in combination with pyridostigmine bromide causes neurological deficits in test animals, similar to those reported by some gulf war veterans. Dr. Satu Somani and Doctors Garth and Nancy Nicolson have all completed research which concludes that gulf war veterans' illnesses may be due to combinations of chemical exposures in the Persian Gulf. Dr. Claudia Miller reports that there are similarities between the gulf war veterans' symptoms and those of some civilians exposed to organophosphate pesticides, carbamate pesticides, or low levels of volatile organic chemical mixtures. Dr. William Rea concludes that neurotoxic environmental exposures and other personal exposures prior to and during deployment in the gulf may have resulted in chronically deregulated immune and nonimmune detoxification systems, resulting in multisymptom illness. In addition a number of these scientists and physicians have devised treatment protocols for gulf war illnesses and some are reporting success in their treatments. These are the types of research programs and treatment protocols which our Government should be aggressively pursuing for the sake of our veterans, and what I hope will be accelerated as a result of this language.

The National Institute of Environmental Health is eager and ready to begin research and to provide its results to Congress in an expedient manner. This research program will address three areas of which are necessary to better understand the nature of the program. These are: First, capitalizing on the existing body of knowledge of a similar disorder called multiple chemical sensitivity, second, defining individual genetic differences in the ability to metabolize environmental agents commonly encountered during Desert Storm, and third, developing a better understanding of how multiple exposures interact to exert their toxicity on an organism. Moreover, the research program is to include an investigation of treatment protocols which are being developed in the public and private sectors for illnesses resulting from chemical and other environmental exposures.

Once again, I'd like to thank Chairman PORTER and the Appropriations Committee and staff for their cooperation in this effort. I look forward to learning about the progress of this research program as it is implemented, upon enactment of this bill.

HONORING THE REVEREND HARRY J. PILSON AND THE MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to the esteemed Pastor of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, the Reverend Harry J. Pilson and the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church on

their 130th anniversary. The Mount Pleasant Baptist Church has grown under the guidance of Pastor Pilson who is celebrating his ninth anniversary with the church.

Pastor Pilson was born in Bassett, VA on March 7, 1949. While growing up in Henry County, VA he consistently demonstrated a spirit for Christian service. He was a member of the Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church where he served as a member of the Gospel Choir, and the Sunday School. He was also president of the youth group and participated in various civic activities. After completing his secondary education in the Henry County public schools, Harry pursued his higher education at Virginia State College in Petersburg, and the Northern Virginia Community College. He also attended the Virginia Seminary and College in Lynchburg where he received an associates degree in social science and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Christian education. In 1987, Harry received the Master of Divinity degree from Virginia Union University in Richmond. In addition, he received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from the Virginia Seminary and College in 1989.

Pastor Pilson joined the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in September 1988 after having served at the Rivermont Baptist Church in Lynchburg from 1974 to 1988 and the Chestnut Grove Baptist Church in Esmont from 1972 to 1973. Since relocating to northern Virginia, Pastor Pilson has been active in a wide range of community, civic, and religious organizations. He serves on the Northern Virginia Baptist Ministers Conference, and the Mount Vernon Baptist Ministers Association. He is currently serving on the executive boards of both organizations. In addition Pastor Pilson has recently been elected to the Board of Directors for the Virginia Baptist Sunday School, and the Baptist Training Union Congress of Virginia. He has worked as an instructor at the Baptist Training Union for the past 16 years. Pastor Pilson also volunteers his time to serve as a Chaplain at Alexandria Hospital, Chaplain for the Fairfax County police department in Fair Oaks, and Chaplain for the Northern Virginia Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Pastor Pilson's activities also include his membership on the Executive Board of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission since 1990 and the Alcohol Safety Program Local Policy Board.

Even with these many activities, Harry continues to be a devoted husband and father. He is married to the former Olivia Scruggs of Fluvanna County, VA and they have two sons: Harry James II and Eric LeMar. Pastor Pilson cares for his family in much the same way he cares for his church and its members: he is concerned for their spiritual, social, and mental welfare. Of course, Pastor Pilson's active nature complements the long history of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church.

The Mount Pleasant Baptist Church has actively served its Lincolnia community for 130 years. Mount Pleasant will begin celebrating its anniversary on September 15 with the celebrations scheduled to go through September 20. Throughout Mount Pleasant's history, the church has promoted the spiritual growth of its members. Mount Pleasant Baptist Church actively serves a wide range of individuals and encourages them to give back to their community.

I know my colleagues and the congregation of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church will join

me in saluting this double anniversary. It is a great pleasure to represent a church devoted to giving back so much to the surrounding community. In addition, it has been an honor to work with an individual such as Pastor Pilson who guides his church to be active in providing service to those less fortunate. I wish him and the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church continued success for many more years to come.

TRIBUTE TO FRED AND ANGELINE ANDREANO ON THEIR 70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this hallowed chamber to pay tribute to Fred and Angeline Andreano, of Patchogue, Long Island, as they celebrate their blessed 70th wedding anniversary with their family and friends on September 18, 1997.

I know my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives believe as I do, that marriage is the bedrock of our society, the foundation on which all of our values, beliefs and hopes for the future rest. That is why we, as national leaders, should take a moment to recognize and honor Fred and Angeline Andreano for all of the love, loyalty, hard work, and faith they have dedicated to a marriage that has endured and grown for 70 years.

It was a blessed day in 1927 when Fred Andreano and Angeline Montecalvo pledged their love and fidelity to each other at the St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church in Angeline's hometown of Center Moriches. Born in the nearby South Shore, Long Island, community of East Patchogue, Fred was a young man of 24 when he promised a lifetime of commitment to Angeline, a pledge he has held sacred for seven decades. The love and adoration between Fred and Angeline has blessed them with two wonderful children, Richard and Ann, as well as six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

For the past 70 years, Fred and Angeline Andreano have demonstrated the values, caring and commitment that have given their marriage the strength and stamina to flourish through a Great Depression, two World Wars and 13 Presidents. The foundation of the Patchogue community, indeed, all of Long Island, has been strengthened by the example of hard work and devotion that Fred and Angeline have dedicated to their marriage.

We see the many blessings and gifts that have been bestowed upon Fred and Angeline, of which they so generously share, and understand the true meaning of family values. Mr. Speaker, I ask that this entire chamber join me in offering our praise and heartiest congratulations to them on this remarkable anniversary. A union as blessed as theirs will surely endure forever.

NAFTA, THE FAILED EXPERIMENT

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, a recent report compiled by some of America's leading economic, environmental, and labor authorities has confirmed what many people, including myself, have known since 1994—NAFTA has failed.

"The Failed Experiment: NAFTA at Three Years," a comprehensive analysis of the trade pact, is a cooperative effort of the Economic Policy Institute, Institute for Policy Studies, the Sierra Club, U.S. Business and Industrial Council Educational Foundation, the International Labor Rights Fund, and Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch. It should be required reading for all Members of Congress as we debate and vote on giving fast-track negotiating authority to the President as he prepares to expand NAFTA to Chile and other Latin American nations.

The portrait of NAFTA that these organizations have rendered is not pretty, but it is hardly surprising to those who have kept a close watch on its corrosive effect on not only the United States, but Mexico and Canada as well.

The even-handed analysis in this report has shown what many have instinctively known since NAFTA went into effect in 1994—this deal has cost us dearly in American jobs. It is estimated that there has been a net loss of 400,000 jobs due to NAFTA.

And not only has NAFTA cost us jobs, but it has put a crimp in the standard of living of other workers. As our trade deficit has exploded to \$39 billion with Mexico and Canada in 1996, United States wages have continued to head south. The "Failed Experiment" again demonstrates the link between trade deficits and stagnating wages among all workers. NAFTA has accelerated this trend, and has made it much easier for American manufacturers to pack up and leave when workers begin to demand wage fairness. When faced with bargaining with a union, 15 percent of firms actually closed part or all of their plant, which is triple the rate of the late 1980's.

And what of the promises of assistance to workers displaced by NAFTA? According to the Department of Labor, only 5,300 workers have received NAFTA transitional adjustment assistance. Clearly, these programs have only helped a tiny fraction of the people they were intended to reach.

The "Failed Experiment" also catalogs how NAFTA has threatened our health, safety, and environment. For instance, maquiladora manufacturing slums in northern Mexico have contributed to cross-border pollution in places such as El Paso, TX, where the ozone level is now at dangerous levels 75 percent of the time. Due to a lack of United States inspectors, unsafe food has streamed into this country from Mexico, with the recent strawberry contamination scare being just one example of the problem. More than 7 percent of all crop imports from Mexico are estimated to contain illegal pesticides, with such meal-time fixtures as lettuce and carrots at well over 10 percent. In addition, more than a quarter of Mexican trucks that roll into Texas each day are loaded with hazardous materials such as corrosives,

chemicals, explosives, jet fuel, poisons, and toxic wastes. These trucks are required to only meet Mexico's lax safety standards. For example, Mexico does not require tractor-trailers to have front brakes. Only a last minute decision in 1995 by President Clinton, under pressure from myself and other Members of Congress, prevents Mexican tractor-trailer trucks from entering the United States.

Perhaps if our trading partners had seen some improvement in the standard of living of their citizens during the last 3 years, there would have been some benefit from NAFTA. However, the study paints a grim picture of the free trade "boom" for the people of Mexico and Canada.

Despite the flow of American jobs and capital to our north and south, the average worker has benefited little, if not at all.

In Mexico, the average wage has plummeted since 1993, from \$2.40 to \$1.51 per hour. In addition, the last 3 years have seen the loss of 2 million jobs and the destruction of 28,000 small businesses.

Part of these problems are attributable to the Mexican peso devaluation of 1995, but as the "Failed Experiment" explains so well, the financial crisis was an inevitable part of Mexico's NAFTA plan. The Mexican Government purposely kept the peso's value too high for too long for a number of reasons, but mainly in the hopes of impressing upon the world that its economy was in better shape than it really was. The bottom had to fall out of the peso after the treaty was approved in order for Mexico to attract the foreign investment it so desperately wanted and make Mexican exports cheaper to other countries. Unfortunately, this type of cynical mentality still runs Mexico, and the signs for another peso crash and more misery for working Mexicans are on the horizon.

Meanwhile, our northern neighbor, Canada, has seen a steady decline in its standard of living since joining the United States as the original signatories of NAFTA in 1989. The Canadians have been mired in a recession with unemployment hovering at around 10 percent and the country's comprehensive social safety net is being dismantled in the name of competitiveness. Canada's policies and practices have been harmonized with the rest of North America's—downward.

As Congress examines extending fast-track negotiating authority, I urge my colleagues to read "Failed Experiment" and keep in mind the unpleasant track record of this trade pact for not only the United States, but all its participants.

IN MEMORY OF DALE JOHNSON

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I recently learned of the untimely passing of Dale Johnson, a constituent of mine from East Schodack, NY, who was a distinguished member of his community.

I knew Dale as the founder and chairman of the Second Amendment Research Group, a not-for-profit educational organization in New York State. This was a group that sought to educate itself and others about the right of citi-

zens to bear arms. Dale also was the vice chairman of the Schodack Conservative Party; a life member of the National Rifle Association; treasurer of the Historical Society of Esquatack; a member of We The People, a New York organization dedicated to ensuring a fair and just State constitutional convention; and a strong supporter and promoter of women's involvement in hunting and shooting sports.

Dale certainly made an impact upon his community. He was active in protecting and strengthening our constitutional rights. Dale also took part in preserving the historical treasures of our community. Anyone who knew him recognized that he stood up for and acted upon the issues and things he felt strongly about.

Dale was a family man, a level-headed and rational human being, and intellectually honest in his pursuits. While he knew how to be a pragmatist, he never sacrificed his core beliefs and values. He will be remembered as a truly great American.

I have attached the words which Dale drafted prior to his death that instructed his family on what to do in case he became incapacitated. I include this because his words say better than anyone can about the type of philosophy by which Dale lived his life. Maybe we can all learn something by taking a moment to read it.

W. DALE JOHNSON, JULY 16, 1943–JULY 27, 1997

At a certain moment a Doctor will determine my brain has ceased to function and for all intent and purposes my physical life has stopped.

When that happens, do not attempt to instill artificial life into my body by use of a machine, and don't call this my "death-bed." Call it my "Bed of Life." Only my body has ceased to be. My spirit and love go on. It is in the hearts of all of you.

If you must bury something bury my faults, my weaknesses, and my human imperfections.

My soul I leave to God, to you my survivors I leave, all the lessons I have taught, my strength, my love, and my memories. If you want to remember me, keep me in your heart for that is where I truly live. Give to those that need you and are weaker, and learn from my mistakes. Never pass upon the opportunity to tell loved ones and friends how proud you are of them and how much you love them—always have a hand ready to extend for support and a hug to reassure in times of trial. Stand up and act on the things you feel most strongly about. Always remember silence is the same as acceptance.

When you bury my mortal remains, do not grieve, for I will not be there. My soul will be on the wind, my laughter in the sunshine, my warmth will be in the summer rain. Be joyful for the time we had, rejoice in my freedom, I am now free of the world's petty problems and I have fought all my fights. I am free to soar with the eagles and reach out and touch the face of God.

SOUTHERN INDIANA'S ECONOMY

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday,

August 27, 1997, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

BOOSTING SOUTHERN INDIANA'S ECONOMY

Southern Indiana has had a solid record of economic development in recent years. Unemployment in this area is at record lows—2% in some counties, the lowest in a generation. The I-65 corridor from Columbus to the Ohio River is one of the fastest growing areas in the Midwest. Three huge industrial projects—Toyota, AK Steel, and Waupaca—have chosen southern Indiana for their home. And wages are beginning to increase, providing more hard-working families with a living wage. Yet despite the progress, a variety of challenges remain as we look ahead to the future and try to enhance the quality of life for ordinary Hoosiers.

BENEFITS OF SOUTHERN INDIANA

Southern Indiana has a lot going for it. Our infrastructure is good—two major interstate highways, a reliable energy supply, and a good system of local roads, bridges, airports, and water-sewer systems. Economic development simply cannot happen without good infrastructure.

Our communities are friendly. Southern Indiana is a good place to work, live, and raise a family. We do not have overwhelming problems of drugs, crime, AIDS, and poverty, as many areas of the country do. Southern Indiana boasts outstanding hospitals, good schools, a world-class public university system, excellent recreational opportunities, good water resources, and many other advantages. If we want to continue economic growth, we must continue to build on these strengths.

CHALLENGES

But that may not be enough—not enough for the world ahead of us. The world is changing, and that change is accelerating. New challenges lie ahead for businesses and workers, as rapid changes in technology, new ways of delivering services, and tough foreign competition alter the economic landscape across the country.

It is no longer enough to have a strong back, a good work ethic, and even a high school education. Today's factory worker needs to have advanced mathematics, computer skills, and teamwork skills.

In today's globalized economy, national economies are more integrated, tariffs have fallen, and technological barriers between countries have been eliminated with the advances in telecommunications and global transportation. Indiana businesses no longer compete just with Tennessee or Michigan—they compete with Turkey and Malaysia.

So who wins in this new competitive world? Much more is needed than good natural resources. In recent years I have sensed a disturbing trend. In almost every plant I have visited recently, plant managers tell me they are concerned that there are now limits on their production, or soon will be, because they cannot find enough good workers. In the days ahead, the community with the most competitive human infrastructure wins the economic development race—the town with the most highly-skilled workers, the region with the best schools and skill training programs. More than ever before, education is key to economic development.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

We have a good education system in southern Indiana. Many of our students go on to perform well at top universities. They become scholars, engineers, and entrepreneurs. It is not the top students, or even the top half of the students, I am worried about. They are bright and well-motivated, and will prosper. But what worries me are the other students—those in the bottom half, those

who don't go on to college. We are failing to prepare them for today's changing world.

Employers complain that many newly-hired workers lack the capacity or the motivation to learn, do not show up ready for work, do not want to work 8 hours a day and 5 days a week, and frequently quit after a few weeks. One company I met with said they had not hired someone from the local high school in seven years. Another company I visited this summer canceled a planned expansion because they could not find enough skilled workers in the area.

These problems are certainly not unique to southern Indiana. But what all this says to me is that good as we are, as successful as we have been, it is not good enough. We need to do better.

NEEDED STEPS

Clearly a variety of steps are needed to boost economic development in southern Indiana. We need to improve the basic infrastructure of our communities—from roads and bridges, to water systems, to affordable housing. We must do all we can to encourage our talented young people and entrepreneurs to stay in our communities. There is no substitute for talented, creative people. And we need to work to create a business environment in which innovative and competitive efforts of the private sector can flourish. Never forget that small businesses are the backbone of the Indiana economy. They employ more than 2 million Hoosiers.

We need to frankly assess the strengths and weaknesses of our communities and work to build consensus for progress. I know that many Hoosiers are ambivalent about change, but we need to answer the most basic question of all—what kind of communities do we want? And we should recognize the positive role government can play. The character, initiative, and resourcefulness of Hoosiers are still key to our success. But so are various government activities like infrastructure and basic research.

Yet, at the very top of our list must be improving our education and training efforts. We must give priority to early education, stronger high school curricula, tougher education standards, and improved school-to-work programs. We also need to promote business/school partnerships, distance learning, and lifelong learning programs. The emphasis throughout should be on improving the work ethic and on teaching the basic skills: reading, math, communication. We simply must increase the quality of our workforce—by investing in the education and skills of Hoosiers.

And we need to remember that all of our young people must be equipped to participate in a rapidly changing economy. It is not enough to give the top students great opportunity. We have an obligation—and a strong self-interest—to ensure that all of our young people have the skills to fill the jobs in our new economy.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LATTIMER MINE DISASTER

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, on September 10, 1897, near Hazleton, PA, a seminal event in American labor history occurred. In one of the earliest efforts by workers to organize to seek better working conditions and higher wages, 19 men died and at least 36 others were wounded in what is now known

as the Lattimer Mine Massacre. These men forever changed the face of the American labor movement.

It is difficult to imagine today the working conditions of the miners of 1897. Not only were workers paid low wages for extremely long hours under dangerous and sometimes deadly working conditions, but the coal companies maintained control over virtually every aspect of the miners' lives. They lived in company-owned houses, were forced to buy from company-owned stores, and were treated by company doctors.

The coal mined in northeastern Pennsylvania was the energy source for the industrial revolution in America. Jobs in the coal mining industry gave the newly arrived immigrants from Eastern and Southern Europe of the late 1800's a chance to make better lives for themselves and their children. Immigrants from Italy, Hungary, Poland, and other countries faced enormous prejudices and difficulties in assimilating into American culture and becoming accepted by the native-born population.

On September 10, 1897, 400 men began what was to be a peaceful march and demonstration to fight to obtain better wages, better working conditions, and the ability to organize.

A posse of armed citizens led by the local sheriff attacked the miners in a massacre that left at least 19 men dead and countless others injured.

The Lattimer Mine Massacre and the subsequent trial, which ended in an acquittal of the massacre leader mine superintendent Gomer Jones, brought national attention to workers rights and the plight of the men who toiled under abysmal conditions in our Nation's coal mines. The massacre led to a strengthening of the United Mine Workers of America as the voice for anthracite miners and was the first step in helping to empower miners and break down the walls of anti-immigrant sentiment which these men faced.

Mr. Speaker, in 100 years the labor movement has come a long way. The right of workers to organize and bargain collectively is no longer questioned. Regulations now help ensure the safety of mines and other workplaces.

Mr. Speaker, on the 100th anniversary of this terrible tragedy in American labor history I would like to remember the spirit of the miners that is summed up in the following statement from the monument memorializing the massacre:

"It was not a battle because they were not aggressive, nor were they on the defensive, because they had no weapons of any kind and were simply shot down like so many worthless objects; each of the licensed life takers trying to outdo the others in butchery."

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to include a copy of a story from the Hazleton Standard Speaker from September 10, 1995 which recognized the 98th Anniversary of this event. This article provides a background on what transpired 100 years ago today.

NINETY-EIGHT YEARS AGO, GUNS RANG OUT IN LATTIMER

(By Ed Conrad)

Today marks the 98th anniversary of the Lattimer Massacre, one of the most gruesome days in the annals of American labor.

On Sept. 10, 1897, a group of striking anthracite miners at the A.D. Pardee & Co. colliery near Harwood were marching toward

Lattimer Mines in an effort to persuade miners at the Pardee mining operation there to join their cause and walk off their jobs.

Luzerne County Sheriff James Martin and members of his posse, brandishing firearms reported supplied by mining operators, formed a roadblock near the village in an attempt to prevent the unarmed marchers from gaining access to the colliery.

Martin was ordering the miners to turn back when, suddenly, the sheriff fell to the ground, either by accident or when pushed by one of the strikers.

Almost immediately, a shot was fired—by whom has never been precisely determined—and members of the posses began firing their weapons at the marchers and a bloodbath ensued.

Nineteen striking miners were shot and killed, with six more succumbing to their gunshot wounds within two weeks.

The total of 25 men killed and many others injured made it one of the worst incidents of labor violence in the nation's history.

It was due to the growing unrest by striking miners in the Hazleton area that Martin had been asked to intervene and try and keep the peace.

The trouble in the Hazleton area mining area had begun a few weeks earlier at the Honeybrook Colliery, near McAdoo.

Twenty boys who held jobs as mule drivers refused to obey an order from Gomer Jones, division superintendent of the Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal Co., to stable their animals. The boys refused to do so unless they received extra pay.

Consequently, Jones fired the boys and triggered a strike that would leave an indelible mark on labor relations in Pennsylvania's coal fields.

Although, strikes were relatively common in northeastern Pennsylvania's coal fields, this one was worse than most as the miners' resentment against the coal operators continued to escalate.

Martin was notified of the situation and came to Hazleton where he deputized 87 men, some of them prominent persons. They reportedly were instructed to use whatever means necessary to quell any and all disturbances.

Martin, a former mine foreman, also solicited the assistance of sheriffs from both Carbon and Schuylkill counties.

Jointly, the three county sheriffs issued a proclamation banning mob parades and demonstrations.

In open defiance, striking miners began marching from colliery to colliery. Workers in Harwood were told to leave their jobs and join the effort.

It is not generally known but an ugly incident had occurred earlier on the infamous day of the Lattimer Massacre.

The same group of marchers, who hours later would be mowed down in Lattimer, had arrived in the vicinity of Hazle Mines where they attempted to get some of the miners there to join their strike.

However, the sheriff and his deputies stepped in and a brawl erupted, but no member of the posse fired his gun.

In the melee, several of the strikers were injured and two of them arrested.

Nevertheless, organizers of the march felt they had accomplished something because quite a few miners at Hazle Mines, apparently fearing for their well-being, left their jobs and fled from the vicinity of the colliery.

It was at this point that word spread among the marchers that they would leave Hazle Mines and head for the A.D. Pardee mining operation near Lattimer.

As they approached Lattimer, there were approximately 150 marchers who were carrying a pair of American flags.

Then came the confrontation—and the bloodshed.

Martin had given conflicting statements to two different newspapers about what had triggered the gunfire.

"I halted the marching column and read the proclamation but they refused to pay attention and started to resume their march," he had told a reporter from the Philadelphia North American.

"I called the leader to stop but he ignored my order and I attempted to arrest him. I hated to give the command to shoot and was awful sorry that I was compelled to do so, but I was there to do my duty."

Later that same day, apparently on the advice of his attorney, Martin told a reporter from another newspaper that he had not ordered the deputies to open fire.

News of the massacre enraged residents of the entire Hazleton area and violence was feared.

In order to prevent a serious uprising, five regiments of the state National Guard were ordered into the Hazleton area by Gov. Daniel H. Hastings.

Charles McGlynn, a charter member of the original three-man Lattimer Massacre Memorial Committee and currently chairman of that committee, has conducted extensive research on the incident and identified the 19 men who were killed at the scene.

TRIBUTE TO BENNY L. TOLBERT

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, after 39 years in the banking community, Benny L. Tolbert, a resident of Rockmart, GA, in the Seventh District of Georgia, has taken early retirement. Mr. Tolbert began his career at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. He later earned certificates from the Georgia Banking School in Athens and the School of Banking of the South at LSU. Mr. Tolbert later served as president of the Rockmart Bank and the Commercial Bank of Tallapoosa. He ended his career serving as president and chief executive officer of the First Floyd Bank.

In addition to his banking career, Mr. Tolbert served in civic activities including chairman of the Cedartown Merchants Association, president of the Cedartown Chamber of Commerce, president of the Kiwanis Club of Rockmart and president of the Ruritan Club of Cave Spring. Mr. Tolbert served his country by serving 6 months active duty and 5½ years active reserve.

Mr. Tolbert and his wife, Charlene, are members of the Shorter Avenue Baptist Church where Mr. Tolbert serves as a member of the finance committee, a deacon, and Sunday school teacher.

It is my honor to offer these words in support, and in recognition of, Mr. Tolbert's career of service to his community.

WELDON RECOGNIZES VALLEY FORGE SEWER AUTHORITY FOR EXCELLENCE

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity today to

recognize the Valley Forge Sewer Authority in Valley Forge, PA. Today, the Valley Forge Sewer Authority was presented with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, Operations and Maintenance Excellence Award for 1997.

Valley Forge Sewer Authority's consistent excellence in providing wastewater treatment to a wide area of homes and businesses in and around Valley Forge, as recognized by this award, is particularly noteworthy and deserves special recognition in this year the 25th anniversary of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972.

All too often, the positive aspects of our Nation's environmental protection efforts and laws are not acknowledged. Rather, the focus is placed more on the unfortunate instances when our environment is harmed. Valley Forge Sewer Authority, which serves thousands of households and numerous businesses, is an example of how we can live and work in harmony with the environment under the direction of Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

As the Representative of the Seventh Congressional District, in which the Valley Forge Sewer Authority is located, I ask my colleagues to join me congratulating the authority for its accomplishment. The member municipalities, municipal authorities, and Valley Forge Sewer Authority's management and staff deserve our commendation for true environmental protection.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE RICHIE ASHBURN

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who holds a special place in the hearts of all Philadelphians, Don Richard Ashburn. Richie Ashburn died of a heart attack yesterday in New York at the age of 70. Just hours before, he had been in the booth at Shea Stadium broadcasting a game between the Mets and his beloved Phillies.

For almost 50 years, Richie was a part of Philadelphia. He came up as a rookie in 1948 and promptly won the job of starting center fielder. That year he hit .333 with 32 stolen bases, was the only rookie voted to the all-star game, and was subsequently named Rookie of the Year. He won batting titles in 1955 and 1958, and was known as a superb outfielder who could run down almost any ball. He set records by notching 500 or more putouts in four different seasons and 400 or more putouts in 9 seasons.

On the last day of the season in 1950, with the Phillies leading the Dodgers by only one game in the standings, the two teams met at Ebbetts Field to decide who would take the National League pennant. With the score tied 1-1 in the bottom of the ninth, a Brooklyn player tried to score from second on a ball hit into the outfield by Duke Snyder. Richie fielded the ball and threw a perfect strike to the catcher, who tagged the sliding Dodger out to end the threat. The Phillies won that game with 10th-inning home run, but it was Richie's throw home that saved the season for the "Whiz Kids." Some of us remember that game

like it was yesterday, and I will always remember Richie's voice, which was the voice of the Phillies for decades after his retirement as a player. His midwestern twang, his dry humor, and the sage baseball wisdom which characterized his broadcasts could be heard throughout the city from April to October. Richie was elected to the hall of fame in 1995 and on July 30 that year, more than 35,000 fans, most sporting Phillies red, showed up to usher him into the hall. It was the largest crowd ever at a hall of fame induction ceremony.

The city of Philadelphia lost a friend yesterday. Richie was a class act. All over the city, from the stoops of South Philly to the church which now sits where Connie Mack Stadium once played host to Whitey's many triumphs, the city mourns the loss of its favorite adopted son. Richie Ashburn grew up in a small town in Nebraska, but he came to love Philadelphia as much as Philadelphia loved him. City flags will remain at half-mast until Richie is laid to rest. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the memory of Richie Ashburn, who was more than just a great ballplayer.

DIRECT DEMOCRACY

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I am inserting my Washington Report for Wednesday, August 20, 1997, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

DIRECT DEMOCRACY

One of the more intriguing questions of government is whether it is responsive to the views of the voters. Many Americans think it is not. Others think politicians are too responsive, spending all of their time trying to be reelected and basing their positions on what they think the voters want rather than what they think would be good for the country. My belief is that politicians reflect the views of those they represent more than the people think, but certainly examples can be found to the contrary. In a country as large as ours the people cannot govern themselves directly, at least not on every matter on the national agenda. A fundamental issue of American democracy is the appropriate means for the voters to express themselves.

Under our system of representative democracy, the voters play an essential but limited role. They do not determine public policy but they vote to determine who will determine public policy. In some ways, the accepted notion that every adult is entitled to an equal voice in the conduct of public affairs is difficult to square with the practice of filtering the wishes of the voters through elected leaders.

I sometimes wonder whether we are on the threshold of a transformation in our democracy involving a significant increase in citizen participation. All of us lament the decline of voter participation and the cynical manipulation of our political campaigns. Most of us have a feeling of being "left out" of the decision-making process, like the constituent who complained to me that no one asked him whether he favored the recent budget agreement. Occasionally I encounter people who believe government has become an alien force in American life. Faith in major institutions of government is low. The damage to democracy in all of this is obvious.

DIRECT DEMOCRACY

More and more I hear Hoosiers who believe that the answer to problems with the democratic process in this country is to let the people directly make some policy decisions. They are interested in proposals to create electronic town meetings where voters could use advanced technology to register their views on a given issue directly. They like the idea of holding nationwide referenda on issues like tax increases or reform of Social Security.

About half of the states in the U.S. use the referendum, which is a vote by all of the people on a particular proposal. Though state laws vary, this process typically requires garnering the signatures of a certain number of registered voters in support of placing a proposition on the ballot. Indiana law does not provide a way for citizens to put issues directly on the ballot, though citizens do vote on amendments to the Indiana Constitution once they are approved by the General Assembly. The U.S. Constitution does not provide for use of the referendum at the national level.

Proponents of direct democracy note that the information gap between ordinary people and their elected representatives is far narrower now than centuries ago. Thanks to television, radio, instant polling, the Internet, and fax machines, news travels widely and instantaneously. Voters are informed, and they want a part of the action.

POSSIBLE DRAWBACKS

The hope behind direct democracy is that American civic life will be re-energized as voters become more involved. But direct democracy does present problems. First, it sometimes omits time to absorb information and exchange views. While the legislative process doesn't often work quickly, it is designed to allow extensive deliberation.

Second, while direct democracy seeks to make an end run around powerful special interests, this is not easily accomplished. Interest groups simply shift their lobbying focus from politicians to the people. In California, where ballot initiatives are perhaps most prolific, millions of dollars are spent on sophisticated, sometimes misleading, advertising campaigns.

Third, direct democracy could sometimes slight the rights and views of racial, religious, or other types of minorities. Our Founding Fathers warned of the "tyranny of the majority," and expanding direct democracy would probably put more responsibility on the courts to ensure that fundamental constitutional guarantees were preserved.

Fourth, direct democracy places more responsibility on voters. They must move beyond educating themselves about candidates for office to learning about specific issues in some depth.

THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

The democratic process does not invariably get us to the right policy, but when citizens talk and deliberate with one another in a spirit of mutual respect, it yields impressive results. Not every issue can be resolved through the democratic process, but even with the tough issues it does permit us to live with disagreement and to move on. When everyone's claim is considered on its merits rather than on the basis of power, status, or wealth, the decisions made will likely lead to better public policy.

The lifeblood of democracy is citizen participation. As people participate in the institutions of civic life—whether schools, churches or community organizations—they are drawn out of their own private interests, they reject cynicism, and begin to think about what is good for their community and country. It is important not to think of di-

rect democracy as a substitute for existing means of participation in the political process, and we should work to increase voter turnout. Direct democracy has its risks, but so does the view that government is inaccessible, unresponsive and unworkable.

I treasure America's unique system of representative democracy, but I also think we need to keep searching for ways to strengthen our democracy by finding better ways to give all Americans a sense that they have a stake in the process. My guess is that with the rapid advances in telecommunications technology and the dissatisfaction many persons now feel with the political process, we will see a demand for more direct democracy and broader citizen participation. It may be that a good dose of direct democracy, carefully administered and selectively used, is just what we need to reinvigorate our democracy.

INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING GREENHOUSE GASES

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution along with Speaker GINGRICH, Mrs. CHENOWETH, chairman of the House Resources Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. HERGER, and Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. POMBO, Mr. MCINNIS, Mr. SESSIONS Mrs. SMITH of Washington, Mr. RIGGS, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mrs. CUBIN Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. DOOLITTLE Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. SKEEN, Mr. SCHAFER of Colorado, Mr. HANSEN, and Mr. RADANOVICH expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should manage its public domain national forests to maximize the reduction of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Global warming has been an issue of great debate and discussion in Congress. Whether you believe human induced global climate change is occurring or not, this resolution deserves the support of everyone.

Science has proven to us that carbon dioxide, the leading greenhouse gas can be taken out of the atmosphere by allowing a young vibrant forest to absorb carbon through photosynthesis. It is stored as wood.

Carbon dioxide can also be kept out of the atmosphere by harvesting the forest before it begins to decompose or burn, thus storing the carbon in wood products that are environmentally friendly, as well as providing an economic benefit to society.

In December of this year, the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, which may commit to the United States to mandatory greenhouse gas reductions, is expected to be signed in Kyoto, Japan. The ramifications of this treaty could be enormous for people, the economy, and our way of life.

The key issue is whether the Clinton-GORE administration will commit the United States to mandatory reductions of carbon dioxide. Mandatory reductions mean it will cost you \$8 more each time you fill your gas tank. Mandatory reductions mean your home heating bill will increase by 50 percent. Mandatory reductions will cost taxpayers millions of dollars and will cost many Americans their jobs.

There are alternatives to mandatory reductions of carbon emissions. One alternative is to manage our public forests better in order to extract from the atmosphere and store more carbon dioxide than we currently do. This means using the controls on greenhouse gases that mother nature gives to us rather than control that Government mandates us to follow.

With this resolution, we send a message to the Clinton-GORE administration. Use mother nature's way of cleaning the atmosphere. Manage our forests to improve the environment. Don't simply impose still more Government controls on our lives.

We must send a message to the Clinton-GORE administration that the Federal Government itself should take the lead in taking steps to reduce the levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. By managing our public domain national forests to minimize additions of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere we will improve our air quality, the health of our Nation's forests and set an example for other nations' as the world prepares for the negotiations in Kyoto, Japan.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 50th anniversary of India's independence. On August 15, 1997, India, the world's largest democracy celebrated 50 years of freedom from British rule. Today, Indian emigrants share their culture, diversity, religions, and languages with people throughout the United States. Last week on the floor of this House of Representatives, some Members attempted to perform a great disservice to the proud and distinguished Indian people who have worked so hard to instill democracy in their country.

Mr. Speaker, the road to democracy in India has not been an easy one to navigate. India's first 50 years of independence have been filled with numerous challenges to the nation's sovereignty. Let me remind those in this Chamber of the tumultuous first century which the Founders of this great Nation endured. But to penalize this country by limiting developmental assistance funding would be an act of ignorance that not even this body could endorse.

India exhibits all of the internal problems that any country of 1 billion people would face. Yes, there is violent crime, yes, there are acts of terrorism, and yes, there is racial violence. But we also have these same problems in our country. Financial punishment of India would be tantamount to the imposition of the death sentence to the millions of children who rely on our assistance to survive.

United States-India relations are strong. India has been able to maintain the democratic principles they were founded on in the face of great diversity. India is a country we should applaud, not condemn. Recently, the Commerce Department designated India as one of the United States' most important trading partners and India's largest investor. I am pleased the House unanimously rejected this most recent attack on India and urge my colleagues to continue to support democracy in this great country.

TRIBUTE TO EVA DEAN

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional woman, Ms. Eva Dean, who will be honored for her outstanding community service on Friday, September 12, 1997, in Helena, AR. Ms. Dean is being recognized for her many years as an advocate for the poor and needy of her community. At 76 years old, Ms. Dean continues to be active in political and social endeavors. She has exemplified the spirit of community that is so vital to the future of our country. I commend Ms. Eva Dean for her selfless dedication and service to the citizens of Helena and on behalf of her friends and family, I stand here today to say a heartfelt thank you.

TERRORISM IN ISRAEL MUST BE STOPPED

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call for an end to the terror in Israel and to condemn those who seek to end the peace process by striking at innocent civilians.

Over the past month and half, the citizens of Israel have been the victims of several ruthless and cowardly acts of terrorism. On July 30, two suicide bombers killed 15 Israelis and wounded over 170 others in a popular marketplace. On September 4, bombers struck again at a busy pedestrian shopping mall, killing 5 people and wounding more than 150. The extremist Muslim group, Hamas, has claimed responsibility for both attacks, with the goal of derailing the Middle East peace process and destroying Israel.

While I believe that the peace process should continue to move forward, it cannot do so unless Chairman of the Palestinian Authority, Yasir Arafat, and other Arab leaders, begin to take seriously their role in stamping out acts of terror throughout the region.

A main tenet of the Oslo Accords is that Israel will give land to the Palestinian people only if they can demonstrate their commitment to peace by taking an active role in putting an end to violence and terrorism. It is clear from recent events that Chairman Arafat and the Palestinian Authority are not living up to this commitment.

While the Israeli government has taken active steps to adhere to the Oslo Accords, the Palestinian Authority has cut off negotiations with Israel and violated the Oslo agreement by terminating security cooperation with Israel that was intended to crack down on terrorism. And in an act that says a great deal about Palestinian leaders' attitude about terrorism, within days of the July bombing that killed 15 Israelis, Arafat publicly embraced an extremist Hamas leader. These are hardly the actions of a man who is committed to ending terrorism and forging a lasting partnership with Israel.

I am encouraged by the fact that Madeleine Albright has undertaken her first visit to the Middle East since becoming U.S. Secretary of

State. I call on Secretary Albright to tell Chairman Arafat and other Arab leaders that the United States is fully committed to pursuing a lasting peace in the Middle East, but will not back down in the face of those who would use terrorism as a weapon against peace.

Secretary Albright should also make it clear to Arafat that he cannot continue to inflame passions in this situation by blaming the Israelis themselves for these acts of terror. Following the bombing in July, and again this month, Arafat claimed that the Israeli government should be held partially responsible for these atrocities because it has created a hostile environment for Arabs living in the region. This type of irresponsible scapegoating only encourages further acts of terrorism and undermines the entire peace process.

Mr. Speaker, the Middle East peace process is at a genuine crossroads. At this tenuous time, the United States must recommit itself to moving the process forward while helping to protect Israel against those who are waging a war of terror against the Israeli people. I call on all of my colleagues to assist in this effort, and I offer whatever encouragement I can to the Israeli people at this difficult time.

THE DEATH PENALTY

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I am inserting my Washington Report for Wednesday, September 3, 1997, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

THE DEATH PENALTY

Several recent criminal trials have raised the profile of the death penalty in the United States. Use of the death penalty is accelerating, aided by changes in court procedures and in state and federal laws. Since a 1976 Supreme Court decision that revived the use of capital punishment, 398 persons have been executed in the United States. About 3,000 persons are currently on "death row": sentenced to death but awaiting court appeals. Roughly 40 are women. Because of the seriousness and irreversibility of the punishment, most states require immediate review of all death sentences. In 1996, 45 persons were executed. Forty persons were executed in the first half of 1997, the fastest rate since the 1950s.

The death penalty is quite popular in public opinion polls. Politicians often point to their support of the death penalty as evidence they are "tough on crime". By supporting the death penalty they believe (and I think quite sincerely) that they are doing something about crime. Yet I have serious doubts that executions are either an effective or appropriate response to the worst crimes.

First, I am concerned with the irreversibility of the execution and the possibility of error that exists in the use of the death penalty. Since 1973, 69 persons have been released from death row with evidence of their innocence. With new rules limiting appeals, however, even persons who can reasonably demonstrate their innocence with new evidence could conceivably be executed. Most Americans have reasonable confidence in our judicial system, but mistakes are made. If we have the death penalty, we will execute innocent people. For the innocent victim of an error in a capital case, there is

no remedial action. Also, execution of an innocent person lets the real murderer off the hook. If the government never made a mistake, I would be much more inclined to support the death penalty.

Second, the administration of the death penalty is seriously flawed. It is both expensive and unfair. Nationally, we spend about \$10 billion per year to implement the death penalty. The cost of the death penalty per executed prisoner in Texas is \$2.3 million—three times the cost to put someone in maximum security for 40 years. Even if the death penalty could be proven to deter crime, there are more prudent ways to allocate our judicial resources. For example, the funds spent on death penalty cases could be used to deploy more police officers, to hire more prosecutors, and to keep other criminals in prison longer. These steps are more likely to reduce the overall crime rate.

The use of the death penalty often results in a distortion of our justice system. Each death penalty case is so widely publicized and magnified that it becomes extremely difficult for the evidence to be considered carefully and dispassionately. The purpose of a trial is to seek truth; that purpose is thwarted by the sensationalism of a capital case. Because it is very hard to convict a person of a capital crime, the entire criminal process becomes so lengthy and complex that it is often not possible to achieve a fair and effective administration of justice. Too many persons sentenced to die have ineffective legal representation. The poor, uneducated, mentally handicapped, and eccentric are executed disproportionately more than middle class whites—even comparing similarly heinous murder cases. The race of the victim is often an important factor. In all of the executions since 1976, almost 90% of the murder victims were white, although half of all victims in the United States are black. No matter what you think of capital punishment, a legal system that will end a life must first provide justice. I have come to the view that the death sentence cannot be fairly and decently administered.

Third, for all its expense, the death penalty has not been proven to deter crime. Murder rates in states with the death penalty are just as high as in neighboring states without it. No connection has ever been shown between murder rates and capital punishment. At the very least, the burden ought to be on death penalty supporters to prove that it does, in fact, deter crimes. I do not think such credible evidence exists today. There may be cases in which a criminal would not kill because he does not want to risk the death penalty, but there may also be situations where the death penalty could encourage a criminal to kill, such as when a criminal thinks he is going to be executed anyway, so it might be safer for him to kill a witness or an informer.

Fourth, the interests of society can be fully protected with life in prison without parole. A guaranteed life sentence, with no hope for parole, will be just as effective at preventing that person from committing future crimes. When government makes a mistake and convicts an innocent person, we would still have the opportunity to correct the mistake. Public opinion polls show that support for the death penalty drops sharply when people are given the alternative of life sentences without parole.

Fifth, my basic view is that the taking of life, even by the state, is simply wrong—even when the person executed is morally reprehensible. The state has the right and the obligation to punish a murderer severely, but it should not endorse more killing. The death penalty demeans our society and violates a basic tenet of most Americans' religious heritage: Thou shalt not kill. Religious

leaders such as the Pope decry the use of the death penalty. Proponents argue that taking a life—even an occasional innocent life—is a necessary cost of social order. I disagree. We should not lower ourselves to the level of the criminals. The death sentence endorses violence, and violence begets violence. We must show every compassion for crime victims, and deal severely with those convicted of egregious crimes, but the state should follow a higher moral standard than criminals.

I prefer to impose life without parole for serious crimes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 8, and Tuesday, September 9, I was necessarily absent from the House and unable to cast the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Nay on rollcall vote No. 369, the Blunt amendment which sought to reduce funding for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration by \$11.2 million and increase funding for vocational education by \$11.2 million.

Nay on rollcall vote No. 370, the Norwood amendment which sought to reduce funding for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration by \$11.2 million and increase funding for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act by \$11.2 million.

Nay on rollcall vote No. 371, the Miller of California motion to adjourn.

Nay on rollcall vote No. 372, the Doggett motion to adjourn.

Nay on rollcall vote No. 373, the Souder amendment that sought to transfer \$21 million from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Federal enforcement account and \$2 million from the executive direction and administration account to the compliance assistance account.

Nay on rollcall vote No. 374, the McIntosh motion that the Committee rise.

Yea on rollcall vote No. 376, the Burton amendment that sought to provide \$1 million in funding for the "We the People" educational program designed to educate high school and middle school students on the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Nay on rollcall vote No. 377, the Coburn amendment that sought to transfer \$35 million to the State AIDS Drug Assistance Program from a variety of accounts.

Yea on rollcall vote No. 378, the Castle substitute amendment to the Istook amendment to require health centers that receive Federal planning funds to encourage family involvement and to counsel minors on methods to resist coercive sexual activities.

Yea on rollcall vote No. 379, the Istook amendment as amended by the Castle substitute amendment that requires providers of services under title X of the Public Health Service Act to certify that family participation is encouraged in the decision of minors to seek family planning services and that counseling is provided on how to resist coercive sexual activities.

VINCENT "JIM" GIANNOTTI
HONORED

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, in recent years we have appropriately focused on the spirit of voluntarism and the benefits to both the volunteer and the service to which time is being given. It is an honor for me to bring to the attention of the House of Representatives and the American people an individual who exemplifies voluntarism and who has given so much of himself. Mr. Vincent "Jim" Giannotti of Meriden, CT, has served as a volunteer to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Meriden since September 18, 1979. This Friday, September 12, 1997, Jim will retire from the medical center after completing 18 years of volunteer service.

It is significant that Jim's service to the medical center didn't start until he was 72 years of age. This coming December 18, Jim will celebrate his 90th birthday. Since 1979, he has contributed over 19,000 hours of his time to the medical center.

Jim began his service with the delivery of newspapers to patients, visiting with them along the way, and giving them both friendship and companionship. He also volunteered in the Surgicenter and was a patient representative volunteer. Jim could always be counted on to fill in wherever he could and would gladly accept any assignment. He was not only a valuable asset to the volunteer department, but to the entire hospital as well.

Jim Giannotti is held in the highest esteem and is clearly respected by all who know him. Over the years, his tireless efforts and his unselfish donation of time and energy have helped the lives of so many and has helped Veterans Memorial Medical Center better serve the community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all of the people whose life he has touched, I want to congratulate Vincent "Jim" Giannotti upon his retirement and to thank him for his many years of service.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HAZEL HAWKINS-RUSSELL

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I take the floor of the House today to honor and praise a magnificent educator and leader. I am proud to have her working in my district, continuing the tradition of educational excellence in our community. She is an outstanding advocate for increasing educational opportunities for minorities and those with special needs. The woman of whom I speak so highly and hold in such high esteem is Dr. Hazel Hawkins-Russell, who has persisted tirelessly with her work in education for 50 years. Dr. Hawkins-Russell has been a tremendous influence and positive role model for the youth of Riverside, CA.

Back in 1947, Dr. Hawkins-Russell made history as the first African-American school teacher to be hired in what was then known

as the Riverside city schools. For the next 23 years, she taught both elementary and junior high schools where she touched the lives of all of her students. Her enthusiasm and positive spirit served as an inspiration, and every student left Dr. Hawkins-Russell's class with a little piece of her in their hearts.

In 1970, after her career as a teacher, Dr. Hawkins-Russell became a consultant for the Pupil Services Department of the Riverside Unified School District. It was her responsibility to have an extensive knowledge of all California laws relating to minors. She provided technical assistance to schools in all discipline cases, prepared each case for hearing panels, and worked extensively with youth groups and services. Dr. Hawkins-Russell's mission was to help children who were having problems and prevent them from slipping through the cracks unnoticed or ignored.

From 1974 to 1982, Dr. Hawkins-Russell was the coordinator of the Emergency School Aid Act, a federally funded program that provided aid in remedial math and reading, as well as programs in multi-cultural awareness, human relations, tutorial assistance, staff development, parent effectiveness training, and conflict resolution. She was selected three times to assist in evaluation of ESAA proposals on a national level here in Washington, DC, and once on a regional level in San Francisco.

Aside from her job, Dr. Hawkins-Russell was actively involved with several organizations that are devoted to improving education. She was president of the Association of California Intergroup Relations Educators, worked as interim co-director at Riverside NAACP Child Development Centers, and was a member of the Western Riverside County Mental Health Association and the Attorney General's Commission on Racial, Religious and Minority Violence. She also served on the State library steering committee as a representative of San Bernardino, Orange, Inyo, and Riverside Counties and was elected as a delegate for the State of California to the White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services.

Let me add to this amazing list of achievements by mentioning a few honors she has received. She has been recognized with the ACIRE Presidents Award, the YWCA Award for Outstanding Community Leadership, a certificate for outstanding service at the First National Human Relations Conference, the Derby Club Outstanding Black Woman Inland Area Trophy, and most recently, the Ida Louise Jackson Graduate Achievement Award presented by Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

Dr. Hawkins-Russell continues to work in education as an adjunct faculty member at Riverside Community College. Dr. Hawkins-Russell's drive for excellence is a rare commodity, and she has touched the lives of many during her 50-year career as an educator. I am extremely privileged to have such an exceptional person serving the youth in my district. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Hawkins-Russell for her 50 years of hard work and the accomplishments she has made for education in my district, as well as the Nation. She has set a standard for community service and leadership that will remain for years to come. I hope that Dr. Hawkins-Russell will continue to be an advocate for children and quality education. I wish her happiness and good luck in her future endeavors.

THE TRUE IMPACTS OF NAFTA ON
THE U.S. ECONOMY**HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I recommend that all my colleagues read the article reprinted below from the Washington Times by Charles McMillion for an objective assessment of the true impacts of NAFTA on the U.S. economy.

[From the Washington Times, Sept. 1, 1997]

U.S. SHOULD SLOW DOWN AND THINK BEFORE
RACING AHEAD ON FAST TRACK

(By Charles W. McMillion)

There are few things more important to our local and national economy today than global investment and trade. With our terrific new technologies and more than 1 billion (one in three) of the world's workers unemployed, what policies work best in driving growth and prosperity?

Unfortunately, this is not the high-minded debate we will hear this week as Congress begins discussions on renewing "fast-track" negotiating authority for President Clinton to expand the North American Free Trade Agreement south of Mexico.

Instead, brace yourself for an awesome display of big-money arrogance and raw public relations power by the few dozen largest corporations and financial institutions that dominate discourse on these vital concerns.

Speaking for these powerful special interests—and key campaign contributors—President Clinton declared again last week: "Already, over the last four years more than 25 percent of our economic growth has come from overseas trade."

This statement may be true for the small group of private interests. But it is pure nonsense for the U.S. economy. The United States must borrow from abroad or sell assets worth \$3 billion each week to pay for our trade losses. Workers and firms throughout the country have taken cuts in pay and profits to avoid becoming a trade statistic.

Yet global trade is one of the four defining elements of our nation's gross domestic product. The others are consumer spending, private investment and government spending.

U.S. economic losses from trade, large when Mr. Clinton came into office, have grown each year, setting world records. Trade has sharply reduced the U.S. economy. It is one of the reasons that growth has been slower and the U.S. dollar far weaker in the current recovery than in any other similar period on record.

Beyond the simple arithmetic, U.S. trade losses are now compounded by the composition of trade. Unlike a generation ago, when oil and basic commodities accounted for most U.S. trade losses, today's losses are dominated by autos and high-tech electronics. Global commerce, dominated by a few transnational companies, is now largely a tool that undermines domestic producers and living standards.

While the Dow Jones industrial average has soared more than 150 percent the past five years, average salaries, health care and retirement benefits have declined.

But despite these facts, a "globaloney" PR campaign will promote the benefits of expanding NAFTA.

NAFTA, ratified four years ago, was sold by the business and political elite as a precedent-setting investment and trade pact among the sleeping giant of Mexico, with its population of 93 million, the United States

(population 260 million) and Canada (population 29 million). But the administration and big-business lobby have recently been forced to wildly spin NAFTA's effects.

Several no-longer (if ever) independent "think tanks" funded by transnationals, their foundations and the government, from Brookings to Heritage, have put out reports using remarkably similar and inappropriate assumptions to reach the conclusion that NAFTA has had a slight but positive effect on both the United States and Mexico.

Yet under NAFTA Mexico has suffered its worst depression since the 1930s, with incomes still 15 percent to 20 percent below 1993 levels.

Gone is any reference to Mexico's population, three times the size of Canada's, or to its young and well-educated labor force, which is growing by more than 1 million per year. Now Mexico is presented as an almost insignificant little place with an economy only one-twenty-eighth the size of the U.S. economy. This to pretend that Mexico can have very little effect on U.S. workers or firms.

Gone also is any mention of the post-NAFTA \$50 billion package of stabilization loans that the administration insisted two years ago was essential to head off economic collapse in Mexico. This omission is particularly odd because it was the equivalent of a \$1.4 trillion loan, had it been made to the United States.

Now the spin is that "opponents can't dispute" the claim that NAFTA greatly cushioned the impact of Mexico's economic crisis. Of course, if there were any "cushioning" effect on U.S.-Mexico trade, this massive U.S. loan—not NAFTA—would deserve the, well, credit.

And what, exactly, is the extent of this supposed cushioning on U.S. trade? On a balance-of-payments basis, the worst previous U.S. trade losses with Mexico were in 1983 and 1984, when they reached \$7.5 billion and \$6.1 billion, respectively, and were concentrated in oil and simple commodities. By contrast, U.S. trade losses soared to \$16.6 billion and \$18.4 billion in 1995 and 1996, respectively. U.S. trade losses to Mexico are concentrated now in high-wage, highly productive manufacturing industries such as autos and electronics.

By contrast, the rest of the world continues to enjoy large trade surpluses with Mexico.

Peso devaluations have been a common occurrence in Mexico for a generation. The 47 percent devaluation in 1995 was less severe than devaluations in 1982, 1983, 1986 and 1987 and barely worse than those in 1984, 1985 and 1988. It is not politically correct to ask the obvious question: Why are the effects of the post-NAFTA devaluation so much worse than those that came before?

The answer points to the failed elements of NAFTA and to the debate that is needed before repeating mistakes that are already costly to most citizens, even as they enrich a powerful few.

NAFTA has far more to do with providing new powers to investors and speculators than with tariff reduction. Tariffs now amount to no more than a few percentage points and are insignificant in the face of 10-to-1 or 20-to-1 differentials in production costs between the United States and Mexico for many industries.

These new private powers give investors, for example, the standing to sue governments directly in international tribunals over a wide range of ill-defined regulatory matters. These powers are what suddenly catapulted \$60 billion in global hot money into Mexico as NAFTA took shape, turning it briefly into the fast-buck capital of the world.

As the International Monetary Fund and others have noted, these massive capital flows leave countries highly vulnerable to worldwide events, dramatically increase investors' influence and leave governments little room to maneuver in time of crisis.

NAFTA's investors and trade provisions have clearly failed the vast majority of Americans and Mexicans. To ignore this experience and lurch ahead could be a fast track to deep trouble.

TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL L. JACKSON

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional public servant and leader in the Sacramento community, Mr. Samuel L. Jackson.

A native of Florida, Sam Jackson was born in Pensacola in 1947. Early on, Mr. Jackson set himself apart as an honor roll student committed to obtaining a worthy education. To further this goal, Mr. Jackson enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1966. His military service, including a 13-month tour of duty in Vietnam, allowed him to serve his country and earn money for college.

After his discharge from the Air Force in 1970, Mr. Jackson followed through on his educational goals, first at Sacramento City College, and then at California State University, Sacramento. Following his graduation with honors from CSUS, Mr. Jackson enrolled at the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in 1974. There, he served as president of the Black Law Students Association in 1976. At his graduation from McGeorge in 1977, Mr. Jackson was presented the Faculty Outstanding Student Achievement Award, becoming the first student of color to ever receive that high honor.

As a young attorney, Sam Jackson worked as a criminal prosecutor in the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office from 1977 until 1979. Then, he accepted a position with the city of Sacramento as a deputy city attorney. By 1988, Mr. Jackson had risen to the position of senior deputy city attorney in the minimum time allowed. In 1989, he became the first African-American elected president of the Sacramento County Bar Association.

Mr. Jackson also maintained his long-standing commitment to education by serving as a professor of legal studies at American River College from 1979 to 1994.

In 1994, Sam Jackson's tireless efforts on behalf of the people of Sacramento, marked by an esteemed reputation for integrity and community activism, earned him the post of city attorney by a unanimous vote of the city council. In this position, Sam Jackson has excelled as a tough litigator for the city of Sacramento. But he has never foregone the community service endeavors which are so near to his heart, especially his work with children.

As a strong advocate for the Big Brothers and Big Sisters organization, Little League baseball, Sacramento's St. Hope Academy, and the Citizenship and Law-Related Education Center, Sam Jackson has established a legacy of service on behalf of Sacramento's youth.

He has also thrived in a number of influential professional legal organizations in California. In 1995, he became the first African-

American elected to the California State Bar's board of governors. He also became the first person of color elected president of the Alumni Association for his alma mater, McGeorge Law School.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in saluting Samuel L. Jackson for a remarkable record of professional excellence and community service. The people of Sacramento are the proud beneficiaries of Sam Jackson's hard work and good citizenship.

MEDICARE

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, August 13, 1997, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

REFORMING MEDICARE¹

Medicare has been a very successful government program in providing for the health of older persons and the disabled. It has substantially improved access to health care. Because of Medicare, the percentage of older Americans with health coverage has increased from less than 50% in the 1960s to 99% today. And since it was initiated three decades ago, life expectancy at age 65 has increased by more than it did in the six decades before Medicare. All of this has made Medicare one of our most popular social programs.

But Medicare has some major cost-related problems. First, its sharply increasing costs have been a major contributor to the large budget deficits of recent years. In just three decades its costs have grown to about 2½% of the nation's gross domestic product (GDP). And if no action is taken it will claim nearly 4% GDP ten years from now and 8% of GDP by the middle of the next century. It is simply not possible to balance the budget and keep it balanced unless large Medicare savings are achieved. Second, the numbers driving the future projections are simply relentless. Today we have 24 million retirees, but when the baby boom generation is fully retired the figure will be 48 million. Yet the number of working-age citizens whose payroll taxes finance most of the Medicare benefits will increase only 20% in that period and Medicare spending per beneficiary continues to rise. Third, excess care is often provided, as beneficiaries simply do not have to decide if medical services are worth their cost. And providers do not have sufficient incentive to reduce the cost of medical services because their payments are based on the number and type of services they provide. Finally, the amount of fraud and waste in the Medicare program, is huge. The government spends about \$200 billion a year on Medicare, yet recent estimates are that ¼ of that consists of overpayment. We now have only about one agent to investigate every \$10 billion of Medicare spending.

Program Changes: Given the rapid projected growth in Medicare, it is not politically realistic to expect tax increases to restore solvency to the program, especially in the current anti-tax mood in the country. Thus Congress is focusing on cutting back costs and restructuring the Medicare program. There are three main approaches: cutting back payments to providers (doctors and hospitals), requiring Medicare beneficiaries to pay more, and restricting Medicare to provide for market-based incentives.

These approaches are not mutually exclusive, and reform is proceeding along all three lines.

Cutting back payments to providers: Medicare's prospective payment system for hospitals has helped curb payments to providers. This system creates roughly 470 diagnosis-related groups (DRGs) into which hospitals admissions have to be placed. It is a complex system, but it has created incentives for hospitals to be more efficient. Yet the prospective payment system is no panacea. The payments apply only to certain Medicare-covered services, and when payments to providers are cut back they often respond by performing more services to offset some of their income loss. The recently passed budget reconciliation agreement achieved most of its savings by curbing and reforming payments to providers, but it is generally agreed now that cutting back fees is not a long-range solution to the Medicare problem.

Making patients pay more: Another approach is to make the beneficiaries—the patients—pay more. More of the burden could be shifted to beneficiaries by increasing their costs or increasing the age of Medicare eligibility. In general, most of the experts think that it makes some sense to impose at least part of the burden on Medicare beneficiaries since they are the ones who receive the benefits. This year Congress considered proposals to strengthen Medicare's financial condition by charging extra premiums to wealthier retirees, raising the eligibility age, and imposing a co-payment of \$5 per visit for home health care services. None of those proposals survived in the final bill, but there is broad agreement that it would be a mistake to consider them dead.

Restructuring program: The third approach is to redesign the Medicare system in a way that can improve its efficiency. Today Medicare guarantees people a particular insurance plan. An alternative, "choice-based", system would guarantee people a fixed amount of money with which to purchase health insurance, but it would not specify which policy they are to receive. The shopping for insurance plans would encourage the plans to be more efficient and would create more competition. A choice-based system probably holds the most promise for restraining costs, but it will not be easy to implement. The choices offered, the price, the eligibility for the plans, and how to protect poorer beneficiaries all would have to be worked out.

Congressional Action. Congress must soon begin a fundamental reexamination of this immensely popular but hugely expensive program. I believe Americans understand the need for change. They recognize the amount of fraud and waste in the Medicare system and also realize that the projections about its future growth mean the program in its present form is unsustainable. But Medicare reform is as difficult as it is essential. The temptation for the politician is to deal only with the problems of the next few years but not much beyond. But Medicare will need more than that. It is certainly going to be a major test of the nation's political system to see if it has the capacity to resolve the problems for the longer term rather than to lurch from one crisis to another.

The sooner we begin restructuring Medicare the more options we will have and the less wrenching the changes will be. Whatever changes are made, caution and prudence will be virtues in dealing with a program as vital to millions of vulnerable Americans as Medicare. The reform process should proceed at a deliberate pace. It does not have to be accomplished all in a matter of two or three years. It will be complicated, divisive, and time-consuming. I doubt very much if we get

it correct the first time. Mid-course corrections and adjustments will be necessary throughout the process, but it is very clear to me that we should get on with the job.

¹Material taken from Setting National Priorities: Budget Choices for the Next Century, Robert D. Reischauer, Editor, The Brookings Institution Press, Washington, DC, 1997.

SAINT JOAN OF ARC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AWARDED NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON AWARD

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work and educational achievements of Saint Joan of Arc Elementary School in Jackson Heights, NY. The school has recently been selected as a Blue Ribbon School Program winner by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors elementary and secondary schools that offer rigorous, efficacious curricula to their students. Schools selected for the Blue Ribbon Award must have challenging academic standards and curriculum, high retention and graduation rates, strong school, family, and community partnerships, excellent teaching and teacher development, and must provide a safe, disciplined, drug-free learning environment for their students.

Schools were nominated by State education agencies, the Council for American Private Education, and the Department of Defense Dependents Schools. Schools selected for recognition conducted a rigorous self-evaluation involving administrators, faculty, students, parents, and community representatives in the completion of their nomination application. This self-evaluation included an assessment of the school's individual strengths and weaknesses and the development of strategic plans for the future.

Saint Joan of Arc Elementary School is one of only 36 private schools and 226 public schools selected from among the 527 schools, from over 40 States, to be nominated this year. Saint Joan of Arc is the only school in the city of New York and the only Catholic School in the State of New York to be so honored.

In today's world where many students are forced to attend school in overcrowded classrooms, learn from outdated textbooks, do without the most basic computer technologies, it is imperative that we commend and encourage those institutions and educators who excel.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in congratulating the administrators, faculty, and students of Saint Joan of Arc School on their outstanding achievement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIR ACCESS TO INDEMNITY AND REIMBURSEMENT [FAIR] ACT

HON. HARRIS W. FAWELL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. FAWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill which will level the playing field

for small businesses as they face an aggressive National Labor Relations Board [NLRB] with vast expertise and resources. The Fair Access to Indemnity and Reimbursement Act—the FAIR Act—is about being fair to small businesses. It is about giving small entities, including labor organizations, the incentive they need to fight meritless claims brought against them by an intimidating bureaucracy which often strongarms those who have limited resources to defend themselves.

The FAIR Act amends the National Labor Relations Act to provide that a small business or labor organization which prevails in an action against the NLRB will automatically be allowed to recoup the attorney's fees and expenses it spent defending itself. The FAIR Act applies to any employer who has not more than 100 employees and a net worth of not more than \$1.4 million. It is these small entities which are most in need of the FAIR Act's protection.

Mr. Speaker, the FAIR Act ensures that those with modest means will not be forced to capitulate in the face of frivolous actions brought by the NLRB, while making the agency's bureaucrats think long and hard before they start an action against a small business. By granting attorney's fees and expenses to small businesses who know the case against them is a loser, who know that they have done nothing wrong, the FAIR Act gives these entities an effective means to fight against abusive and unwarranted intrusions by the NLRB. A government agency the size of the NLRB—well-staffed, with numerous lawyers—should more carefully evaluate the merits of a case before bringing a complaint against a small business, which is ill-equipped to defend itself against an opponent with such superior expertise and resources. The FAIR Act will provide protection for an employer who feels strongly that its case merits full consideration. It will ensure the fair presentation of the issues.

The FAIR Act says to the NLRB that if it brings a case against a little guy it had better make sure the case is a winner, because if the Board loses, if it puts the small entity through the time, expense and hardship of an action only to have the business or labor organization come out a winner in the end, then the Board itself will have to reimburse the employer for its attorney's fees and expenses.

The FAIR Act's 100-employee/\$1.4 million net worth eligibility limits represent a mere 20 percent of the 500-employee/\$7 million net worth limits that are in the Equal Access to Justice Act [EAJA]—an act passed in 1980 with strong bipartisan support to level the playing field for small businesses by awarding fees and expenses to parties prevailing against agencies. Under the EAJA, however, the Board—even if it loses its case—is able to escape paying fees and expenses to the winning party if the Board can show it was substantially justified in bringing the action.

When the EAJA was made permanent law in 1985, the Congress made it clear in committee report language that the NLRB should have to meet a high burden in order to escape paying fees and expenses to winning parties. Congress said that for the agency to be considered substantially justified it must have more than a reasonable basis for bringing the action. Unfortunately, however, courts have undermined that 1985 directive from Congress and have interpreted substantially justified to

mean that the Board does not have to reimburse the winner if it had any reasonable basis in law or fact for bringing the action. The result of all this is that the Board easily is able to win an EAJA claim and the prevailing business is almost always left high and dry. Even though the employer wins its case against the Board, the Board can still avoid paying fees and expenses under the EAJA if it meets this lower burden. This low threshold has led to egregious cases in which the employer has won its NLRB case—or even where the NLRB has withdrawn its complaint after forcing the employer to endure a costly trial or changed its legal theory in the middle of its case—and the employer has lost its followup EAJA claim for fees and expenses.

Since a prevailing employer faces such a difficult task when attempting to recover fees under the EAJA, very few even try to recover. For example, Mr. Speaker, in fiscal year 1996, the NLRB received only eight EAJA fee applications, and awarded fees to a single applicant—for a little more than \$11,000. In fiscal year 1995, the Board received only nine fee applications from prevailing parties and awarded fees to only four applicants totaling less than \$50,000. Indeed, during the 10-year period from fiscal year 1987 to fiscal year 1996, the NLRB received a grand total of 100 applications for fees. This small number of EAJA awards arises in an overall context of thousands of cases each year. In fiscal year 1996 alone, for example, the NLRB received nearly 33,000 unfair labor practice charges and issued more than 2,500 complaints, 2,204 of them settled at some point post-complaint.

The NLRB understandably argues the lack of successful EAJA claims is due to it carefully issuing only worthy complaints—those it is substantially justified in bringing. Does anyone believe this? Of 2,500 complaints last year the Board was unreasonable one time? In fact, Mr. Speaker, employers who have prevailed against the Board recognize the long odds of winning, and high expense of undertaking, additional EAJA litigation. Since it is clear the EAJA is underutilized at best, and at worst simply not working, the FAIR Act imposes a flat rule: If you are a small business, or a small labor organization, and you prevail against the Board, then you will automatically get your attorney's fees and expenses.

The FAIR Act adds to new section 20 to the National Labor Relations Act. Section 20(a) simply states that a business or labor organization which has not more than 100 employees and a net worth of not more than \$1.4 million and is a prevailing party against the NLRB in administrative proceedings shall be awarded fees as a prevailing party under the EAJA without regard to whether the position of the Board was substantially justified.

The FAIR Act awards fees and expenses in accordance with the provisions of the EAJA and would thus require a party to file a fee application pursuant to existing NLRB EAJA regulations, but the prevailing party would not be precluded from receiving an award by any burden the NLRB could show. If the Board loses an action against the small entity, the Board pays the fees and expenses of the prevailing party.

Section 20(b) of the FAIR Act applies the same rule regarding the awarding of fees and expenses to a small employer or labor organization engaged in a civil court action with the NLRB. This covers situations in which the

party wins a case against the Board in civil court, including a proceeding for judicial review of Board action. The section also makes clear that fees and expenses incurred appealing an actual fee determination under section 20(a) would also be awarded to a prevailing party without regard to whether or not the Board could show it was substantially justified.

In adopting EAJA case law and regulations for counting number of employees and assessing net worth, an employer's eligibility under the FAIR Act is determined as of the date of the complaint in an unfair labor practice proceeding or the date of the notice in a backpay proceeding. In addition, in determining the 100-employee limit, the FAIR Act adopts the NLRB's EAJA regulations, which count part-time employees on a proportional basis.

Mr. Speaker, the FAIR Act will arm small entities—businesses and labor organizations alike—with the incentive to defend themselves against the NLRB. The FAIR Act will help prevent spurious lawsuits and ensure that small employers have the ability to effectively fight for themselves when they have actions brought against them by a vast bureaucracy with vast resources.

If the NLRB wins its case against a small employer than it has nothing to fear from the FAIR Act. If, however, the NLRB drags an innocent small employer through the burden, expense, heartache and intrusion of an action that the employer ultimately wins, reimbursing the employer for its attorney's fees and expenses is the very least that should be done. It's the FAIR thing to do. I urge my colleagues in the House to support this important legislation and look forward to working with all Members in both the House and Senate in passing this bill.

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Florida International University for 25 years of academic excellence and exciting growth.

Florida International University [FIU] has distinguished itself by becoming a center for intellectual inquiry and research that emphasizes the link between basic and applied scholarship. The university's interdisciplinary centers have acted as a catalyst for creativity in the arts, the sciences, and the professions by encouraging interaction among its students, faculty, staff, and the communities it serves.

Florida International University is ranked among the top 10 public commuter colleges in the United States by Money Magazine and is also cited in several leading college guides, including Barron's Guide to the Most Prestigious Colleges; and U.S. News & World Report's annual survey of America's Best Colleges.

Under the tenure of Dr. Modesto Mitch Madique, the university has made tremendous inroads. Dr. Madique, the first Cuban-American to be president of a 4-year college, became president in 1986. He has had the vision and the initiative to push the institution toward the 21st century.

When it opened its doors in 1972, FIU had an enrollment of 6,000 students. Today, with 13 schools and colleges, FIU has grown to over 28,000 students from all 50 States and 120 countries. As a major center of international education, FIU prides itself on the cultural and ethnic diversity of its students and faculty. It is, indeed, as many of its faculty and students like to say, "a gateway of the Americas."

FIU's College of Engineering and Design bears witness to the university's overall success. Under Dean Gordon R. Hopkins, the college of engineering has earned international recognition for its research programs, drawing scholars from all over the world. Similarly, in the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Dario Moreno, associate professor of political science, helped create a Ph.D. program in this discipline which works in conjunction with the university's renowned Latin American and Caribbean Center [LACC] and the Cuban Research Institute [CRI] to produce first-rate research in these areas of such great interest to our region.

The people of the 21st Congressional District are proud to claim Florida International University as our own. We look forward to the university's bright future of intellectual achievement built upon a foundation of integrity, creativity, and openness to the exploration of new ideas.

THERE'S TOO MUCH TO LOSE

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. ADAM SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago this House passed a good foreign operations bill, a bill which was structured to help ensure stability, prosperity, equality, and peace to our neighbors and allies around the world. But on that very same day, we witnessed an outrageous and cowardly act of terrorism, a triple bombing that shook the city of Jerusalem. And we were reminded that there are those who do not want peace, people who would destroy and tear down rather than resolving differences through negotiation and compromise.

Such actions are completely intolerable, and so I stand here today to reiterate what Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has already stated, that the United States expects a "100 percent effort" by the Palestinian Authority to stop militants from using areas under Palestinian self-rule as a springboard for attacks on Israel. On this issue there can be no compromise. A serious discussion of peace can not take place while terrorists are receiving nods and winks by the negotiators who are sitting at the bargaining tables.

And let us not confuse the issue, bombs are not the same as bulldozers. Recently, many papers have printed that this new wave of bombings is the result of controversial housing policies. While the Middle East peace process has had to overcome many obstacles, and will certainly have to continue to overcome many more, we can not begin to compare the actions of terrorists to the building policies of a government. There is no moral equivalency.

So as Secretary of State Madeleine Albright begins her visit to the Middle East today, I call

upon all the parties involved to bring their issues to the bargaining table. The terrorists are waging war, and it is a war on peace. As difficult as it may be, we must find a compromise because we cannot let the terrorists win. There is much too much to lose.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, September 10, 1997 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

REFORMING THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE SYSTEM

The hearings in Congress have now built a powerful case for fundamental changes in the way we finance our political campaigns in America. They have uncovered negligence by both political parties, with the abuses unearthed going back several elections. These parties were desperate for campaign dollars. They did not take care to look at the origin of the dollars, but simply encouraged their flow to the party coffers. There has been a lot of partisan jockeying in Washington, each party trying to blame the other, and the result, at least so far, has been that Congress has done nothing. If that pattern continues, it would be a tragedy for the American political system.

PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS

Americans may not understand the details or even the basics of the campaign finance system. But they are clearly troubled by the role that money plays in the American political system. They believe that money has an excessive influence on government policy and that elected officials who solicit and accept political contributions while making policy decisions are under a conflict of interest.

They understand that the search for money distracts elected officials from the jobs they are elected to do, and that money often buys access for one group while denying another group a fair opportunity to influence the process. They appreciate that the well-to-do and powerful special interest groups have access to Members of Congress that they do not have.

They understand that the problem is systemic and that it is not associated with a single party or a single elected official. It affects all of them. The public clearly understands that the present system of campaign finance does not serve them well. They overwhelmingly want reform, and they want it now.

"SOFT" MONEY

The campaign finance hearings have raised serious concerns about foreign fundraising, but I do not think the problems are limited to that. A large number of people and groups were able to abuse the current laws, simply because those laws invite abuse. The biggest abuse is the so-called "soft money" that flowed in huge amounts to both political parties during 1996 from American donors. Under current law, both foreign and American money from wealthy individuals and corporations can be given in unlimited amounts to the parties as opposed to individual candidates. Although these funds are supposed to be for party-building purposes, they are easily diverted to individual campaigns. What happened in 1996 was that the whole system simply spun out of control as both parties aggressively sought soft money.

Soft money has become the key source of funding for political campaigns. It amounts to large-scale, unregulated donations. I do not think prohibiting soft money will solve all the problems of campaign finance, but it is certainly an essential part of a meaningful reform package.

IMPORTANCE OF LEGISLATION

I believe it is simply time for Congress to legislate. We do not need a lot of additional information or documentation about the ease with which money has flowed into campaigns or the vigor and ingenuity with which candidates have sought the money from whatever source. The investigating committees are correct in trying to get to the bottom of the many questions that have been raised by the investigations, and the possibility of bringing some criminal charges should be pursued by the Justice Department. The country deserves a full accounting of how the political system got corrupted in 1996, and those investigations should be done in as bipartisan a way as possible. But before Congress goes home in 1997, we should enact a tough campaign finance reform law curbing the role of money in campaigns. What is needed now is legislation, not more data, not more information.

At this point, I think Congress should promptly ban soft money. That would do much to slow the flood of campaign money and alleviate the worst problems in campaign finance. Disclosure rules should be broadened to ensure that voters know who is responsible for the accuracy and fairness of campaign advertising and also know who makes all the contributions and how much they are. Even the most minute contributions and expenditures should be revealed before election day.

And no reform is worth anything unless it has effective enforcement. The Federal Election Commission has to be strengthened with strong, independent-minded commissioners, and with a more adequate budget. Penalties should be strengthened for violators. Further reforms will undoubtedly be necessary. But these should not delay action on those measures that can pass now.

It is important to note that the money-raising process goes on even as politicians talk about campaign finance reform. They are vigorously raising money under the old system, including soft money. Already in 1997 about 2½ times as much has been raised as at the same point in the election cycle four years ago.

Time is of the essence with the congressional year concluding and congressional elections coming up next year. Each day that the elections come closer, the passage of campaign finance reform becomes more difficult.

CONCLUSION

Almost every week now we learn more about the selling of government. Political offices from the White House down are being demeaned, if not corrupted. There seems to be a "For Sale" sign on government, and that includes Congress and the Executive Branch. We simply must have reform, and that especially means imposing limits on the giving and receiving of soft money. I see the potential for the current system, if it continues its present pattern, to do serious harm to our system of government.

Now is the time for Congress to act. The campaign finance issues are very well known to every Member. We deal with them every day. I believe we simply have to set aside the efforts to gain or maintain a partisan advantage. We have to focus now on the integrity of our national government. That integrity demands that we have honest, bipartisan campaign finance reform.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JOHN M. TAXIN

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late John M. Taxin, an outstanding Pennsylvanian and contributor to the unique character of the city of Philadelphia. On August 10, 1997, Mr. Taxin passed on at the age of 90 in his beloved city of Philadelphia. Born in 1906 as Morris Martin Taxin, he took the name John after the workers whom he sold produce to began calling him "St. John" for the kindness and charity he showed them when they were down on their luck. The name John has stuck with him ever since. Selling fruit from the back of a horse-drawn cart, Mr. Taxin became an entrepreneur at an early age. He soon had a booming wholesale business as one of the city's most successful purveyors of produce. During this time, he occasionally ate at Old Original Bookbinder's and thought that it could really be something special—if only it were run properly.

In 1940, with two partners, John Taxin bought Old Original Bookbinder's and within 5 years he owned the restaurant outright. During John Taxin's first year as the sole proprietor, it has been reported that Bookbinder's served 650,000 individual meals and generated close to \$10 million in revenue. John Taxin's hard work, shrewd business sense, and genius for public relations made Old Original Bookbinder's by the Delaware River, a favorite destination for visitors to Philadelphia and it continues to attract a who's who of the rich and famous. On any given day in the early years of John Taxin's ownership, diners at Bookbinder's might bump into Joe DiMaggio, Frank Sinatra or Danny Kaye.

In addition to his business success, John Taxin was famous for his philanthropy, his civic-mindedness, and his kind demeanor. Mr. Taxin was a major supporter of numerous charities including: the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Willow Crest-Bamberger Home for Convalescents, Israel Bonds, and St. Joseph's Hospital, where he purchased television sets for patient rooms, underwrote development of several wings and annually provided Christmas decorations. Quietly, John Taxin offered some Philadelphians a second change by providing them with employment after a period of incarceration. Of these employees he often told friends, "None of my guys ever let me down."

Mr. Speaker, in light of his kind and generous spirit, his many successful business ventures and his contributions to the city of Philadelphia, I ask that my colleagues join me today in paying tribute to the late John M. Taxin.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL CHACEY

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Michael

Chacey, an outstanding student from my district in Kansas. Recently, Michael won the Veterans of Foreign Wars 1997 Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest for the State of Kansas. The program is now in its 50th year and requires high school student entrants to write and record a 3 to 5 minute essay on an announced patriotic theme. "Democracy—Above and Beyond" is this year's theme and over 109,000 students participated in the competition nationwide.

Michael is a recent graduate of Derby High School in Derby, KS. For his participation in the 1997 Voice of Democracy Program, Michael won the \$1,500 Silver Spring Memorial Post 2562 Scholarship Award. Michael is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Chacey and he plans a career in biology or law. He was sponsored by VFW Post 7253 and its ladies auxiliary in Derby, KS.

Following is Michael's award winning contest entry.

DEMOCRACY—ABOVE AND BEYOND

1996-97 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: KANSAS WINNER MICHAEL CHACEY

"When people speak of government forms, they tend to speak of them in a hypothetical manner." "In a Perfect World, Anarchy would be the ideal form of government" or "On paper communism looks very good, it just isn't established correctly." Unfortunately these people leave democracy out of their hypothetical discussions. This is terribly disheartening, because whether in the real world, or in some imaginary, perfect one, the freedom, the liberty, and the decision making principles entrenched in a democratic society make democracy a form of government above and beyond all others. The best way to prove this is to compare democracy to other forms of government in both hypothetical and real situations.

For instance, in my English class the other day, we were talking about communism. My teacher said "Communism is probably the most ideal form of government, because it is the most universally fair for the people involved. The only reason it hasn't worked well is that no one has been able to set it up properly." Well, that in itself should show that maybe it's not such a good idea, but say, for the purpose of argument that it could be set up properly. Would it be so great? Decisions would still have to be made. How should we distribute our wealth? What taxes should be paid? Should we go to war with an aggressive nation? These are all questions that have to be answered by a government, and only one equitable way to do it comes to mind. Let the people affected by the decisions make the decisions, either directly, or through representation. Do you believe that the self appointed or military government form of communism or totalitarianism should make these decisions with little or no input from the citizens. Or, should a government, of the people, by the people, and representing the people's wishes make the choice that the majority of the people want? I personally believe the latter is the best. The only way to make sure that the people's wishes are carried out is to allow the people to choose the government. Moreover, they can replace any representative who fails to serve the people. Anarchy could not meet the citizens' needs due to lack of order, and due to lack of representation, no authoritarian government would be able to meet the people's wishes either, as time has proven. Only allowing the citizens to choose preserves their liberty.

Hypothetical situations aside, it is important to realize that it is not a perfect world, and these governments would not be set up

ideally. Winston Churchill once said that democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others. This is true because nothing is perfect. Unworthy men could always come to power. The government could always make poor decisions. But in a democracy, these problems can be solved. It is a self correcting government, which is the true power of democracy. The people have the power in democracy to replace the government officials. If representatives make poor choices, then the citizens in a democracy have the unique privilege to select new officials. Now, there is no guarantee that the people will make the correct decisions, but at least the government consists of individuals who at least the majority of the voters want, making it not only superior to other forms, but more fair.

I am proud to have a young man like Michael Chacey from my district. His remarks on democracy should be a reminder to us all that we are privileged servants in the best system of government in the world.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2264) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to the Istook amendment.

What we have is another attempt to do away with the title X program, which provides funding for family planning services. Services provided under title X reach out to many of America's teenagers who are already at risk in their everyday lives.

Family planning services are one way that these teenagers can receive guidance and education about issues confronting them about sex, reproductive health, contraception, and prevention of disease. By requiring teens to obtain parental consent in order to receive family planning services, and by mandating clinics to notify parents that their children are seeking such services, the Istook amendment will have the effect of decimating the entire family planning system in our country.

The teens we need to be most concerned about—the teens we are trying to prevent from having unwanted pregnancies or contracting a sexually transmitted disease—would become even more endangered if this parental mandate were to take effect.

Perhaps many people are forgetting what it means to be an at risk teen. At risk teens are not the children of many of us in this room today. At risk teens are not the children of parents they can talk to freely about many important issues and values that are affecting their everyday lives. At risk teens are more often trying to escape sexual or physical abuse within their own homes—even from their own parents.

I encourage every teenager to talk with their parents about these very important issues and parents to talk responsibly with their children. That is why I am in support of a substitute amendment offered by my colleagues, Mr. CASTLE and Mr. PORTER. The Porter substitute will require that title X programs encourage the involvement of parents when teens seek family planning services.

Encouraging parental involvement is important, and in an ideal world, all teens would have parents they could feel comfortable talking to and be able to sort out what kind of activity is appropriate. But in the real world, we cannot take away an opportunity for at risk teens to receive essential services, by forcing a mandate upon them that will not work in the real world.

I urge my colleagues to vote against the Istook amendment and support the Porter amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 9, I was necessarily absent from the House and unable to cast the following rollcall votes. I ask permission that the following explanation for each vote be placed in the appropriate place in the official RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent and unable to cast the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: "Nay" on rollcall votes Nos. 371, 372, 373, 374, and 377; and "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 376, 378, and 379.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS E. WALDROP

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives my colleagues, Mr. DAVIS of Virginia and Mr. WOLF, and me great pleasure to rise today and pay tribute to Mr. Thomas E. Waldrop, an outstanding member of the northern Virginia community. Tom is this year's Founder's Award winner from the Northern Virginia Community Foundation. The Founder's Award is given annually to an individual who has demonstrated civic and humanitarian responsibility, and personal participation and leadership in northern Virginia community civic bodies. In addition, the award is presented to an individual who is contributing to improve the quality of life in northern Virginia through leadership in one or more of the following five areas: The arts, education, health, youth, and civic improvement.

Tom is an individual who has made a very strong positive impact on northern Virginia as well as the entire State of Virginia. He is a Virginia native who was born in Montpelier, VA on April 8, 1937. He received his higher education from Virginia schools. Tom received a bachelor's degree in economics from Randolph-Macon College and a master's degree in business from Virginia Commonwealth Uni-

versity. Tom also served his country, and he served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1958 to 1960.

Tom is currently the president and chief executive officer for Media General Cable which is headquartered in northern Virginia. He has served in that position since 1984. Since that time, Tom has directed the development of one of the Nation's largest and most sophisticated cable television systems. Tom's career with Media General Corp. began in 1967 when he started with Richmond Newspapers. He was quickly promoted and appointed the operations manager of Media General Financial Services at the beginning of 1968. Tom went on to serve as their vice president and as assistant general manager. After his success with the Financial Services division, Tom moved to Media General's Piedmont Publishing Co. where he worked as their business manager, and eventually became the general manager. He left Piedmont when he moved to Media General Cable in northern Virginia.

Tom has shown boundless energy and has made it a priority to work in his community to improve the quality of life for all of us. He works with a wide range of organizations that have made northern Virginia the dynamic, vibrant area it is. Northern Virginia's diverse community has grown dramatically since the early 1980's. It has been successful in maintaining a community atmosphere with the work of people like Tom.

Tom works closely with both the northern Virginia arts and business communities. He is in his fourth term as chairman of the board of directors of the Arts Council of Fairfax County. He also remains on the board of directors for the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, the Fairfax County Public School's Business Advisory, the Fairfax Symphony, the Northern Virginia Community College Education Fund, the Northern Virginia Technology Council, the Tower Club, and the Wolf Trap Foundation. In addition to all of these associations, Tom has previously served as the director of the American Heart Association's Fairfax Board and has chaired the development committee for "Spotlight on the Arts" in the city of Fairfax. He continues to demonstrate his willingness to lead the northern Virginia community in a wide range of areas.

Tom is also associated with a number of other activities where he volunteers his time and services to further enhance our community. He continues to work with the Northern Virginia Business Roundtable, the Virginia Opera's Northern Virginia advisory committee, and the corporate advisory committee for the Women's Center of Northern Virginia. Tom also works with national organizations to improve the quality of our cable television nationwide including serving on the board of directors for the National Cable Television Association and C-SPAN, the Cable Satellite Public Affairs Network.

Mr. Speaker, we know our colleagues join us in honoring and thanking Tom Waldrop for his achievements in working to improve northern Virginia for all of its residents. We appreciate all of his work in making northern Virginia one of the finest places to live and work. For those of us that know of Tom's commitment to northern Virginia, it is no surprise that the Northern Virginia Community Foundation has decided to award him their prestigious Founder's Award at a gala on October 24, 1997. It is a well deserved award.

THE 1997 BUDGET AGREEMENT

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, August 6, 1997 into the Congressional Record.

THE 1997 BUDGET AGREEMENT

Congress and the President recently enacted a major budget agreement to reform Medicare, balance the budget, and provide tax relief to many Americans. I supported this agreement.

The budget plan is a major political achievement. For many years, the test of governance has been measured by the ability to cut budget deficits. Both sides gave ground, and both sides won major priorities. Most of the credit, however, should go to the booming economy. Historic growth and low unemployment have boosted revenues and reduced spending. The 1993 budget agreement helped reduce the deficit from almost \$300 billion to about \$40 billion today. In the final negotiations, new economic estimates gave negotiators just enough money to brush aside the last disagreements.

The tax bill appears to offer something for practically every powerful constituency—the middle class, older persons, parents, farmers, small businesses, college students, and investors. It would not offer much relief to single working adults or persons without children. It also includes about 80 narrowly-focused provisions, that benefit just a few individuals or businesses. These limited tax provisions could be subject to a Presidential line-item veto.

The five-year agreement will have only a modest impact on the economy. The tax cuts amount to less than 2-tenths of one percent (0.2%) of the country's economic output. They were designed to be small enough to have little impact on the economy, and they are affordable because of the economy's current strength. The spending cutbacks are equally modest from an economic perspective. But balancing the budget will show that the federal government can get its fiscal house in order, and it will lower interest rates and boost savings and long-term investment.

EDUCATION

The plan includes approximately \$40 billion in education incentives over five years, including the President's \$1,500 tax credit for each of the first two years of college, and up to \$1,000 for each of the next two years. Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) will allow taxpayers to save \$500 per year for a child's education, with tax-free investment earnings. Finally, up to \$2,500 of student loan interest expense will be tax-free. While I am not convinced these changes will dramatically increase the number of children going to college, they will certainly ease the burden on families paying for higher education.

HEALTH CARE

The agreement helps curb rising health costs and the growing number of uninsured Americans. Medicare changes should ensure solvency through 2010, in part through more competition and choice in health care coverage. Provisions in the senate bill to raise the eligibility age to 67, increase co-payments, and means test benefits were not included in the bill. The budget provides health care to about 7 million children who currently have no health insurance. The health insurance deduction for the self-employed will rise to 100%.

TAX CUTS

Income taxes are cut \$130 billion over five years in the bill. Parents earning up to \$110,000 will receive a \$500 per child tax credit. Capital gains taxes are reduced, retroactive to May 7, and long-term investments will receive additional benefits. Homeowners can exclude up to \$500,000 in capital gains from the sale of a principal residence. Savings are encouraged by expanding Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), and taxpayers will be able to make penalty-free withdrawals for education expenses or first-time home purchases. Estate taxes will be reduced, primarily for family farms and small businesses.

DRAWBACKS

Complicated tax system

One major problem with this budget is that it further complicates the tax code. It creates seven different capital gains rates, four education tax credit formulas, three kinds of tax-preferred savings accounts, and two different child tax deductions. Each provision will require more forms, separate instructions, and new income eligibility requirements. Each deduction has a worthy goal, but the cumulative effect is that tax-filing season next year will be the most complicated in a decade. My preference is to eliminate loopholes and deductions and reduce basic tax rates across-the-board.

Betting on a strong economy

Congress and the President are hoping a strong economy will carry us to balance, perhaps as early as next year. If the economy slows, the budget lacks the tough spending cuts to ensure balance. In fact, new spending and accelerating tax cuts will make it harder to balance the budget. Early figures indicate this bill will boost the deficit by \$5.7 billion by October 1. The impact of backloaded tax cuts is less than earlier proposals, but we are still left with a ticking time bomb that can only be defused by a level of fiscal discipline that has not yet been achieved in Congress.

Fairness

One of my concerns about the original House plan is that the tax relief was tilted to better-off Americans. Although the final agreement improved upon the House bill, it still makes the tax code less progressive. All sides agree that, when fully implemented, a far greater share of the tax benefits will go to citizens with high incomes. In effect, proponents of these changes argue that middle-class taxpayers were paying less than their fair share of taxes. I simply disagree.

Entitlements

Perhaps the biggest drawback of the budget agreement is the failure to address long-term entitlements. As baby boomers begin to retire in 2010, spending for federal health and retirement programs will increase dramatically. Congress and the President lost an opportunity to tackle the biggest budget challenge of the next fifty years. The bill does include a commission report on long-term Medicare changes in 1999, but it does not deal with Social Security. History will judge this agreement harshly unless we enact more reforms.

CONCLUSION

On balance, this agreement moves the country forward. It should ensure Medicare's solvency for ten years. It provides tax relief, education, and health care benefits to hard-working families. While it moves backwards on tax reform, and postpones some tough decisions, it is still likely to achieve a balanced budget. My hope is that we can build on this political and economic achievement to address the country's long-term challenges as we move into the next century.

CONGRATULATING MISS AMERICA
1997, TARA HOLLAND**HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Miss America 1997, Tara Dawn Holland on completing a most successful year of service. It has been a privilege for me to work closely with her during her year of service as she promoted literacy in America.

Breaking the cycle of illiteracy is one of the most critical issues facing our country today. Illiteracy robs individuals of economic advancement by leaving people without the skills they need to participate in the American dream. Illiteracy robs individuals of the opportunity to reach their full potential and all too often has been the legacy parents have left for their children.

During the last year, Tara traveled across the country meeting hundreds of people who have overcome this roadblock. She shared very personal experiences about how this problem touched her life and inspired all of those who heard her speak. However, she was not solely an inspirational speaker. Her knowledge and experience has allowed her to embrace this issue as a professional. She knows illiteracy is a family problem that is perpetuated over generations and is intrinsically linked to many of society's ills such as drop out, drug abuse, and crime. But Tara took her knowledge one step further by promoting ways individuals and communities can reach out to those who are unable to read.

Mr. Speaker, Tara is a dedicated crusader in this most important battle. I can't think of a better representative to lead the campaign against illiteracy. Her vibrant personality and spirit has certainly changed many, many lives.

Tara, as chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, I thank you for your dedication in bringing this issue to the forefront. My colleagues in Congress and I look forward to continuing to work with you for many more years.

TRIBUTE TO DR. PAUL SOIFER

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Paul Soifer upon his retirement as president of the board of directors from the West Valley Jewish Community Center and for his steadfast commitment in the Jewish community.

Paul has given selflessly to serve the West Valley Jewish Center. Shortly after Paul accepted his title as president of the board of directors our community was devastated by the Northridge Earthquake. This earthquake forced the center located on the Bernard Milken Jewish Community Campus to close and subsequently relocate to a vacant warehouse. Unfortunately, like any devastating disaster, the earthquake resulted in a huge loss of membership. Paul would have to help rebuild the center on both an emotional and physical level.

Paul rose to this challenge and exceeded all expectations. First and foremost he ensured that each and every program and service continued just as they had before the earthquake. In addition to overseeing the operations of the center, Paul did something special, he brought the Jewish Community Center Regional Maccabi Games to Los Angeles.

As head of the JCC Maccabi Youth Games Committee, Paul was instrumental in organizing more than 1,700 athletes. He secured lodging for all of the athletes and ensured the smooth functioning of the event. The games were a huge success and Paul now heads the 1997 Los Angeles Delegation of the JCC Maccabi Youth Games.

When asked to describe Paul the first thing that comes to his friends' minds is his ability to make a dream a reality. Paul has done this in more ways than one. He succeeded in rebuilding the West Valley Community Center. The center has returned to its original location on the Bernard Milken Jewish Community Campus and more than 1,200 members have returned to the spiritual warmth provided by the center. Today, the dream of a new state-of-the-art fitness center is reality in the making.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Paul Soifer. The Talmud says "Great is charity. It uplifts the soul." Paul is indeed charitable and has uplifted the souls of countless members in our community.

TRIBUTE TO DR. GENNARO
DIMASO**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor a man who has spent over 45 years of his life compassionately caring for children. On the evening of September 23, 1997, Dr. Gennaro DiMaso will celebrate his retirement from the medical profession with friends and colleagues at the Barrister Gardens in St. Clair Shores.

While selling vegetables with his father and brother, Gennaro DiMaso dreamed of becoming a doctor. This was a dream he pursued with great determination. At age 13, young Gennaro made a deal with his father that if he did not excel in school, he would return to selling vegetables. In the St. Francis Preparatory High School annual, it was remarked that "Gennaro's great ambition is to become a doctor, and it is our guess that he will make an excellent one." After completing his undergraduate work at Columbia University, Dr. DiMaso realized his dream by earning his medical degree in pediatrics from Boston University.

After graduation from medical school, Dr. DiMaso was drafted into the U.S. Army and practiced pediatrics for 2 years in Heidelberg, Germany at the American Army Occupation Center. After returning to the United States, Dr. DiMaso joined the staff of St. John's Hospital in 1954.

Dr. DiMaso knows that trust, hope, assurance, compassion, and hugs will create a comfortable feeling in an otherwise scary situation. His humane nature never allowed him to

turn away a child who needed his healing touch. Dr. DiMaso once said, "Babies and children are the elixir, the last pure thing on earth. Hug them, don't stop hugging them." For these reasons, when his patients grow up, they bring their own children to Dr. DiMaso. I would like to thank and congratulate Dr. DiMaso for his kind work. I am sure many mothers, fathers, and children will miss his kind contributions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 8, I was necessarily absent from the House and unable to cast the following rollcall votes. I ask permission that the following explanation for each vote be placed in the appropriate place in the official RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent and unable to cast the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: "Nay" on rollcall votes Nos. 369 and 370.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING MISSOURI HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT CHARLES L. BOWMAN

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a distinguished career in the health care industry is coming to an end in Missouri.

Charles L. "Charlie" Bowman, president of the Missouri Hospital Association, Hospital Industry Data Institute, and MHA Management Services Corp., is retiring after having served Missouri's health care community for 22 years.

Bowman's distinguished career in health care began in October 1975 when he was named senior vice president of the Missouri Hospital Association. He was selected president of that organization in 1986. Mr. Bowman also proudly served his country in the U.S. Army National Guard from 1962-1990, retiring as a Colonel.

During his decades of service to Missouri's hospitals, Bowman has witnessed encouraging changes in the State's health care system. Recent challenges include the emergence of managed care, increasing competition among health care providers, rapid advances in technology, and increasing oversight by government agencies. Throughout the new challenges of today's health care environment, Bowman has led the association to promote the health and welfare of the citizens of Missouri through education and legislative advocacy.

Additionally, Charlie Bowman is active in service and professional organizations, including Rotary International, the American Hospital Association, the American Society of Association Executives, the Missouri Society of Association Executives, the Missouri Association of Army Officers, and the Boy Scouts of America.

As he prepares for quieter times with his wife, Sue, and his four children, I know the

Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to Charlie Bowman and in wishing him the best in the days ahead.

INTRODUCTION BY REQUEST OF THE DISASTER STREAMLINING AND COSTS REDUCTION ACT OF 1997

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I am today introducing by request the administration's proposal to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

As my colleagues are well aware, the Stafford Act provides the authority of the Federal Government, primarily the Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA], to respond to disasters and emergencies in order to provide assistance to save lives and protect public health, safety, and property.

The administration's bill, the "Disaster Streamlining and Costs Reduction Act of 1997," establishes new hazard mitigation authorities and, among other things, makes various other changes relating to eligibility for disaster assistance and to Federal cost-sharing and administrative costs and policies.

Natural disasters cost the victims and the Nation's taxpayers too much. In the last 10 years alone, the Federal Government has obligated over \$50 billion in disaster assistance. Without significant changes in law and policy, the financial exposure of the Federal Government and the risks to families and communities will only increase.

There are also ongoing concerns about the need for more streamlined and responsive disaster programs. While FEMA and others have made administrative improvements over the years, the fact remains that almost an entire decade has passed since Congress last revised and improved the Nation's primary disaster relief and emergency assistance law, the Stafford Act. The need to consider comprehensive legislation and promote improved partnerships between the public and private sectors is clear.

After a preliminary analysis, I believe the administration's bill has several desirable features. It provides a helpful starting point in reining in some of the costs, streamlining and improving various assistance programs, and encouraging hazard prevention and mitigation activities. This bill also has some provisions that are somewhat troubling. I expect the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and, in particular, its Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, chaired by Representative SHERWOOD BOEHLERT, to carefully examine the bill along with other legislative proposals.

I look forward to working with FEMA's Director James Lee Witt and others to improve the Nation's disaster relief program and reduce the costs to disaster victims and the Nation's taxpayers.

PROPOSITION 209

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, the highest court in the land, the Supreme Court, recently refused to block enforcement of California's Proposition 209, the measure that bans race or gender from being a factor in State hiring or school admission. This measure, which was originally agreed to by the people of California nearly 2 years ago, has finally taken effect. I am pleased that the Supreme Court has decided to abide by the will of the people and allow those most qualified and most deserving to obtain State contracts and spots in our competitive universities.

Treating people differently because of their color used to be called discrimination, today it is called affirmative action. I disagree with the President's stance on affirmative action. I believe the popular support of Proposition 209 in California shows our great State's commitment to the historical ideals of liberty and equal justice under the law.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 20 years the Government has been trying to classify all Americans. This is something that I believe is unnecessary and divisive to all of us. I do not believe that race or gender should be used in the consideration of a person's qualifications for a job or the receipt of services.

For America to stand united, we must first stand as individuals who are equal in the eyes of the law. In order for us to solve the problems that stand in our Nation's workplace and our communities, every American needs to be able to stand balanced under blind justice.

Mr. Speaker, as long as affirmative action is a part of our society, the character, the motivations and achievements of some Americans will remain suspect in the eyes of others. This recent Supreme Court decision is a great victory for California. We are leading the charge to end race-based preferences. We have seen the continued failure of affirmative action and we will work to open the doors of fairness and equality.

A TRIBUTE TO KEN WOURMHOUDT FATHER OF THE SKATEBOARD PARK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man devoted to landscape architecture and children. Ken Wourmhoudt was a sport's visionary, creating large outside sculptural forms used as skateboard parks. Ken befriended children and defended skateboarders from detractors, a true friend to his community. It is my privilege to be speaking of this man's accomplishments today.

Ken Wourmhoudt, a licensed architect by trade, worked hard to keep an open dialog between the community and the skateboarders. He appreciated the children's love of the sport and often spoke on their behalf.

His passion for the skateboard parks began in 1978 when he designed Derby Park in

Santa Cruz. He relied on the skateboarders' experience to guide him through the design process, to build the best possible park for them. Derby Park is still enjoyed by many skateboarders throughout Santa Cruz and beyond.

His love for the skateboard parks was only rivaled by his appreciation for the arts. His artistry showed in skate projects in communities such as Napa, Milpitas, and Pleasanton. This devotion went well beyond the skate parks. He served 8 years on the Santa Cruz County Cultural Council and two terms on the Santa Cruz City Arts Commission. He promoted public art on Pacific Avenue and helped with the installations.

Ken traveled the country sharing his expertise and love of the skateboard parks. These visits helped other communities build parks and taught the communities successful new techniques to keep the lines of communication open with the community.

Ken will be missed by all those he encountered and inspired. He is survived by his wife Mardi, a Santa Cruz supervisor, a daughter Lisa, and three sons, Zachary, Jonathan, and Jacob. Zachary is a landscape artist and will continue in his father's footsteps, building skateboard parks for all to enjoy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on rollcall votes Nos. 369 and 370 on September 8, 1997; had I been present I would have voted "no." And, on September 9, 1997, for rollcall votes: No. 371, motion to adjourn, "no"; No. 372, motion to adjourn, "no"; No. 374, motion to rise, "yes"; No. 375, quorum call, "yes"; No. 377, Coburn amendment, "no"; No. 378, Castle amendment to Istook amendment, "yes"; and No. 379, Istook amendment as amended by Castle, "yes".

TRIBUTE TO KENTUCKY STATE SENATOR JEFF GREEN

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 1997

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, along with the tragic deaths of Mother Teresa and Princess Diana, we in Kentucky have suffered a devastating loss of our own.

State Senator Jeff Green was taken from us at the far too young age of just 41 years old. Jeff Green was a hard-working, caring and devoted public servant, husband and father.

He could have taken the easy path some 2 years ago when doctors told him he had a dangerous heart condition. Jeff had lost his own father at an early age. But taking the easy path was not Jeff Green's way and we have benefited because of it.

He worked long hours in the Kentucky Legislature, but always had the time to be with his wife, Sharon, and their two young sons, Tyler and Alex. Because Jeff Green enjoyed one title more than that of Senator, he was most proud to be called Dad.

Mr. Speaker, all of Kentucky will miss Jeff Green. He was an extraordinary man who served his State extraordinarily well.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2264) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Chairman, I want to express my strong support for Representative

GOODLING's amendment which prohibits any money under this bill to be used to develop, plan, implement, or administer President Clinton's new national testing program.

In government classes taught all over this country, we learn about the three Federal branches of Government and their functions granted under the U.S. Constitution. I've been out of the classroom for a while now; however, I'm quite sure that article I, section I of the Constitution hasn't changed since I was in school. This section states that "All legislative powers herein shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives." With this in mind, my colleague from Pennsylvania shouldn't even have to offer this amendment because Congress has not authorized these tests.

During the President's 1997 State of the Union Address, he proposed that individualized national tests be given to fourth grade students in reading and math. Instead of seeking congressional approval for this new education policy, the Department of Education has decided to ignore the Congress and move ahead with the development of these tests with the intent of administering the tests beginning in 1999. Even if one supports the President's standardized national testing program, which I don't, shouldn't this be debated and decided in the U.S. Congress and not by Presidential edict? This appropriations bill, if not amended to include Representative GOODLING's language on national testing, leaves the door wide open for the Department of Education to continue work in this area.

In addition to the fact that Congress has been bypassed in this policy decision, we need to look at the overall issue of national testing. In 1997, the Federal Government will spend roughly \$540 million to test students. Do we really need another testing program? I think money could be better spent on the learning process and teacher training. National tests aren't going to arm our students with the tools they need to gain a world-class education.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment. Even if you support the concept of national testing, you should support the Goodling amendment and permit an open debate on the issue in the Congress instead of letting the President and the Department of Education create policy.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 11, 1997, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 12

9:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings on S. 981, to provide for the analysis of major regulatory rules by Federal agencies.

SD-342

10:00 a.m.

Judiciary

Immigration Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposals to permanently extend the expiring provision of immigration law which allows religious workers to be sponsored by religious organizations in the United States.

SD-226

11:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

Meeting, to discuss pending committee matters.

S-116, Capitol

SEPTEMBER 15

10:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To hold hearings to examine fraud in the micro-cap securities industry.

SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Governmental Affairs

International Security, Proliferation and Federal Services Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proliferation in the information age.

SD-342

SEPTEMBER 16

10:00 a.m.

Armed Services

To hold hearings on the nominations of General Michael E. Ryan, USAF, to be Chief of Staff, United States Air Force, Adm. Harold W. Gehman, Jr., USN, to be Commander-in-Chief, United States Atlantic Command, and Lt. Gen. Charles E. Wilhelm, USMC, to be Commander-in-Chief, United States Southern Command and for appointment to the grade of general.

SR-222

Governmental Affairs

To resume hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing.

SH-216

Judiciary

Antitrust, Business Rights, and Competition Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine antitrust and competition issues in the telecommunications industry.

SD-226

Labor and Human Resources

To resume hearings to examine the implications of the recent Global Tobacco settlement.

SD-430

SEPTEMBER 17

9:00 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings with the Committee on Indian Affairs to examine incidences of criminal gang activity within Indian country.

SD-226

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings with the Committee on the Judiciary to examine incidences of criminal gang activity within Indian country.

SD-226

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings on S. 1158, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act regarding the Huna Totem Corporation public interest land exchange, and S. 1159, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act regarding the Kake Tribal Corporation public interest land exchange.

SD-366

Labor and Human Resources

Business meeting, to mark up the proposed Workforce Investment Partnership Act.

SD-430

10:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

To continue hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing.

SH-216

10:30 a.m.

Conferees

On H.R. 2209, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998.

S-128, Capitol

2:00 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings on the transition to digital television.

SR-253

Judiciary

Antitrust, Business Rights, and Competition Subcommittee

To continue hearings to examine antitrust and competition issues in the telecommunications industry.

SD-226

SEPTEMBER 18

9:00 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To resume hearings to examine the implications for farmers of the recently proposed tobacco settlement.

SD-106

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings on the nominations of Ernest J. Moniz, of Massachusetts, to

be Under Secretary, Michael Telson, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Mary Anne Sullivan, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel, Dan Reicher, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary for Energy, Efficiency, and Renewable Energy, Robert Wayne Gee, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning, and Program Evaluation, and John C. Angell, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, all of the Department of Energy.

SD-366

10:00 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings on the nominations of Wyche Fowler Jr., of Georgia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Martin S. Indyk, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs.

SD-419

Governmental Affairs

To continue hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing.

SH-216

SEPTEMBER 19

10:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

To resume hearings on S. 981, to provide for the analysis of major regulatory rules by Federal agencies.

SD-342

SEPTEMBER 23

10:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

To resume hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing.

SH-216

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine Federal antitrust policy in the healthcare marketplace.

SD-226

Special on Aging

To hold hearings to examine screening and treatment options for prostate cancer.

SD-628

SEPTEMBER 24

10:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

To continue hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing.

SH-216

SEPTEMBER 25

10:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

To continue hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing.

SH-216

Labor and Human Resources

To resume hearings to examine the confidentiality of medical information.

SD-430

<p>SEPTEMBER 26</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Governmental Affairs Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations To hold hearings to review the operation of the Treasury Department's Office of Inspector General. SD-342</p>	<p>tee's special investigation on campaign financing. SH-216</p>	<p>OCTOBER 7</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry To hold hearings on proposed legislation relating to food safety. SR-332</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER 29</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Governmental Affairs Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations To resume hearings to review the operation of the Treasury Department's Office of Inspector General. SD-342</p>	<p>OCTOBER 1</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine the health risks of 1950's atomic tests. SD-192</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Governmental Affairs To resume hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing. SH-216</p>
<p>2:00 p.m. Judiciary Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee To hold hearings to review the operation of the FBI crime laboratory. SD-226</p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Commerce, Science, and Transportation To hold hearings on the nomination of William E. Kennard, of California, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission. SR-253</p>	<p>OCTOBER 8</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Governmental Affairs To continue hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing. SH-216</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER 30</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Commerce, Science, and Transportation To hold hearings on the nominations of Michael K. Powell, of Virginia, Harold W. Furchtgott-Roth, of the District of Columbia, and Gloria Tristani (pending receipt by the Senate), each to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission. SR-253</p>	<p>OCTOBER 2</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Governmental Affairs To continue hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing. SH-216</p>	<p>OCTOBER 9</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Governmental Affairs To continue hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the committee's special investigation on campaign financing. SH-216</p>
<p>10:00 a.m. Governmental Affairs To resume hearings to examine certain matters with regard to the commit-</p>	<p>OCTOBER 6</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Governmental Affairs Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations To hold hearings to examine traditional frauds perpetrated over the Internet. SD-342</p>	<p>POSTPONEMENTS</p> <p>SEPTEMBER 16</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Energy and Natural Resources To hold oversight hearings to review Federal outdoor recreation policy. SD-366</p>